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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

February 7th—13th, 1985
Volume 20, Number 5

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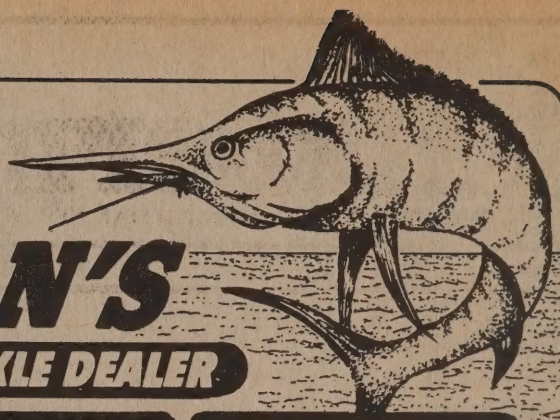

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND. METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 20, Number 5 February 7th, 1985

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The special attraction that fishing holds for youngsters is revealed on the face of Jennifer Halucha after a day of fluking aboard the Orient Point based, *Prime Time II.* Matt Ahern shares some of his own memories concerning this subject beginning on page 18. Cover by Walter Halucha.

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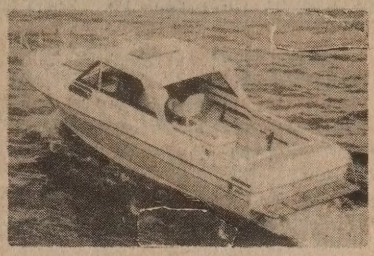

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PASS IT ON

STILL TIME TO ENROLL IN RISTORI/ROCCHETTA FISHING SCHOOL

The 3rd annual Ristori/Rocchetta Fishing School gets under way in two locations this year. Once again, there will be a six-week school in the Hauppauge Holiday Inn (Exit 55 LIE) with a new school at the Holiday Inn in Rockville Center (Sunrise Hwy). Classes in Rockville Center begin Thursday, February 7th and run each Thursday through March 14th. Hauppauge classes begin Wednesday, February 13th and run each Wednesday through March 20th. Hours of instruction for both schools will be 8-10PM.

Both Ristori and Rocchetta are Coast Guard licensed charter boat captains sailing from Montauk, but their experiences cover a much broader range.

Ristori, a nationally known outdoor writer learned to fish in Long Island's waters as a youngster before expanding his angling prowess world-wide.

Rocchetta is thoroughly experienced with Long Island Sound and the North Fork as well as Montauk. His 76 pound striper broke a record that had stood since near the turn of the century.

Many guest speakers will be participating as well. Among them: Captain Paul Stern—giant tuna; Captain Bill Ricca—bottom fishing; Long Island Fisherman Editor Fred Golofaro—Surf Fishing; Captain Charlie Tota, Captain Lou Rosado, Steve Sekora and John Alberda.

The classes will cover basic through advanced techniques for all inshore and offshore species. Cost of the six-week course is $60 for adults and $30 for youngers under 16 and senior citizens. Space permitting, individual sessions will be available at $15 per with youngster and oldsters admitted at half-price. Contact Bob Rocchetta at (516) 751-4803 for reservations.

ATTENTION WINNERS OF THE N.Y. SURF FISHING CONTEST

The Long Island Fisherman, sponsor of the New York Surf Fishing Contest, would very much like to have a photo of this year's winners for an upcoming cover.

Towards that end, we'd like to get you all together at a central location, convenient to a major parkway for the photo on February 20, 1985 at 9PM at Garden City Bowl, Stewart Avenue, half-mile west of the Meadowbrook Parkway.

We'll only need about 15 minutes of your time and we'll give you your trophies at that time as well. Your cooperation is important to us.

The following are the people we'd like to see on February 20th.

Heaviest of Species: Striped Bass—Bob Rance, J. Hanson, and Bill Muller.

Bluefish: T. Kehlenbeck, F. Eike, C. Jones and J. Belmonte.

Weakfish: F. Eike, D. Palmer and T. Booker; J. McKay.

Most Points: Fred Schwab, O. Van Helmond, G. Mandarakas.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB FISHING SCHOOL GETTING UNDER WAY

The Babylon Tuna Club's (BTC) fishing school will be held at the American Legion Hall, 22 Grove Street in Babylon. Registration, according to Chairman Ralph Perone, will begin at 7PM on February 13th and the first session will follow at approximately 8PM. There will be a total of seven sessions which will include both offshore and inshore fishing. Each session will be conducted by an expert in his specialty and many techniques learned from years of experience will be shared with attendees. Free coffee and cake will be served each night. Total cost of

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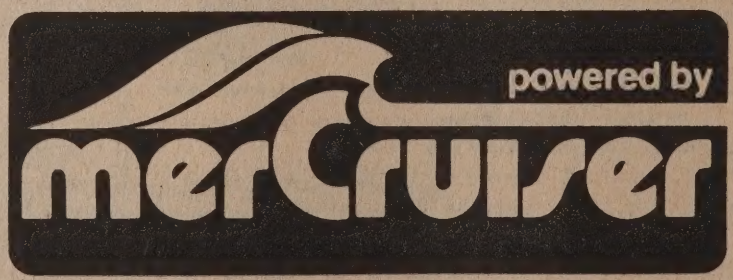

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all the classes will be $20 and anyone who wishes to join the BTC will have that cost deducted from their initiation dues. Children 14 years old and younger are welcome and their cost will be half price.

Classes are scheduled as follows:

Feb. 13: Flounder and fluke fishing.

Feb. 20th: Weakfishing and blackfishing.

Feb. 27th: Bluefishing.

March 6th: Rigging and tying.

March 13th & 20th: Shark Fishing.

March 27th: Offshore techniques.

BOATING SKILLS COURSE IN ASTORIA

A Boating Skills and Seamanship (Bs&S) course will be given in conjunction with the VFW Post, Astoria, in Astoria, Queens.

The address is 31-55 41st St., Astoria, on Tuesday, February 12th, at 7:30 PM (registration). The class will teach safe boating, safe boat handling, seamanship, knot tying (marlinspike), communications, coastal piloting, rules of the road, legal requirements, weather, boat trailering and other nautical subjects.

For more information, call Steve at (718) 767)6551.

1985 SPORT FISHING FORUM/ MARINE INDUSTRIES DAY AT S.U.N.Y FARMINGDALE

Long Island's waters provide excellent sport fishing opportunities. Each year nearly one million anglers fish New York's marine waters spending over $250 million in pursuit of their sport, supporting numerous marine-related businesses. In recent years, growing pressures on the marine environment have resulted in the fluctuation and decline of certain sport fish. These changes affect both the recreational anglers catch and the profits of marine recreational businesses.

Anglers and businessmen will have an opportunity to learn more about the future of sport fishing and marine industries on Long Island at the 1985 New York Sportfishing Forum and Marine Industries Day set for February 8th and 9th at the State University campus at Farmingdale.

On Friday, Feb. 8, Marine Industries Day will focus on problems and potentials of marine recreational businesses. Workshops designed specifically for professional boatmen, marina owners and fishing station operators will cover a number of topics ranging from obtaining coastal permits to computer applications in small businesses.

On Saturday, Feb. 9th, the Sportfishing Forum will allow anglers to learn more about future trends in sport fisheries management on both the national and state level. In addition, workshops on the latest techniques and equipment for inshore and offshore fishing will be offered.

The Forum is sponsored by the Atlantic Professional Boatmen's Association and New York Sportfishing

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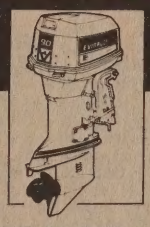

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Federation, in cooperation with the Association of Marine Industries, National Marine Fisheries Service, N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation, N.Y. Sea Grant Extension Program, S.U.N.Y. Farmingdale, The Fisherman Magazine and the Moriches Bay Marine Association. A limited number of tickets ($5 each for both days) for the Forum will be available on a first come, first serve basis at the door. For more information, contact Sea Grant at 246-7777, or 246-7706.

EIGHTH ANNUAL WORLD FISHING EXPO THE SHOW WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Whatever your pleasure—fresh or salt water fishing, hunting, or shooting, fly rods, spinning gear, plugging or surfcasting or big game fishing—you'll find it all at the 1985 World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition which opens on Wednesday, Feb. 27th at Rockland Community College Field House, Suffern, New York.

While the show is designed for the serious sports enthusiast, there's also plenty to appeal to the outdoor-minded family. Most of the major tackle manufacturers are represented, in addition to fabulous taxidermy displays, antique firearms and fishing gear, marine and electronics exhibits, some of America's finest custom rod makers, and guides, outfitters and lodge owners from all across the U.S. and Canada.

Special features for 1985 include a breathtaking live bald eagle display by Save Our American Raptors. The Shimano electronic fishing simulator is sure to provide hands-on excitement for showgoers. The simulator can duplicate the strike, run and fight of almost any game fish.

In addition to all this, there's a super cast of nationally-recognized celebrities who will be on hand each day conducting clinics, seminars and demonstrations: Linda England, Fredda Lee, Lou Tabory, Barbara Lewis and Bob Rochetta, to name just a few. It's a wonderful opportunity to talk with the experts and learn their secrets of success.

Those sportsmen who've caught Wild Turkey fever won't want to miss the Wild Turkey Weekend. Friday evening at 8PM, Dick Kirby will conduct a clinic on "Wild Turkey Calling and Hunting"—if you want to hear the experts "cluck and purr," this is the place to go. The highlight of Wild Turkey Weekend is the Fourth Eastern Open Turkey Calling Competition on Saturday at 2PM. The competition features three divisions: Open, Friction and Junior, with trophies and cash prizes awarded in all divisions. Attendance at clinics is included in the daily price of admission which is $5 for adults and $2 for children under 12.

The Eighth Annual World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition is easily accessible: if you live in New Jersey, just take the Garden State Parkway

up to the New York Thruway (I-87) and go one exit north (Exit 14B-Airmont Road) and follow the signs to Rockland Community College Field House. From Long Island and the East, take the Tappan Zee Bridge and I-87 to Exit 14B. From the North or West, simply take I-87 to Exit 14B. All parking is free!

The Exposition runs five big days, February 27 through Sunday, March 3, and show hours are as follows: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday—1PM to 10PM; Saturday 9:30 AM to 8PM, and Sunday 10AM to 7PM.

Expo '85 has it all—don't miss it!

HEMPSTEAD BAY POWER SQUADRON CONDUCTS 2 FREE BOATING COURSES

The Hempstead Bay Power Squadron, will conduct a free course in boating, at the following high schools, starting at 8PM:

North Valley Stream on February 5 and Hewlett High School on February 27. The course is open to men, women and youngsters. Youngsters must be at least 13 years of age and must come with a parent or guardian. Boat ownership is not required for anyone.

The 10-week course will cover important phases of boating practice including rules and regulations, boat handling, trailering, water skiing and other subjects which lead to safe and happy boating.

ATTENTION CLUBS INTERESTED IN JOINING NEW YORK SURF FISHING CONTEST

The sixth year of the New York Surf Fishing Contest is about to begin (April 1st). The first five years of the competition have been very successful and a lot of fun. The size of the contest has increased from just a few clubs to nine in 1984. The Long Island Fisherman is a full sponsor of the contest.

If you belong to a surf fishing club, or a fishing club with a portion of your membership into surf fishing, your club may be interested in joining other enthusiastic clubs. If you would like to explore this further, call the contest officer, John Fritz at (516) 242-2539.

NEW 1985 MEPPS FISHING GUIDE FREE

If you want to catch more fish, and who doesn't, then I suggest you send for your free copy of the new 1985 Mepps Fishing Guide.

From cover to cover, it's loaded with helpful fishing information, tips, fishing stories and the latest in Mepps spinners. There's a section in this year's Guide which gives some hot tips about fishing Mepps new Combo Killers. Throughout the Fishing Guide are pictures of some great Mepps catches taken last year.

There's a limited supply of free Guides, so act now. To get yours, send a postcard requesting a free 1985 Fishing Guide. Mail it to: Mepps, Dept. 1500, P.O. Box 508, Antigo, WI 54409-0508.

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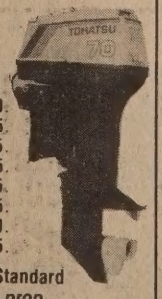

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BOATS FOR ANGLERS:

SEA OX 230 WALK AROUND

by Pete Barrett

My first introduction to Sea Ox was at Hatteras watching a netter work the rough surf line. To get his catch back to his truck, he ran hard through the high surf slamming the craft into the sand. His partner in the truck attached a winch line and they hauled the boat up the beach and onto a trailer. "It's a Sea Ox," the netter said as I looked over the boat. "I've been using it like this for nearly two years." If a Sea Ox could take that, it could probably take anything a recreational boater could dish out.

Early Sea Ox boats were plain and simple; today's versions have traveled much further down the evolutionary ladder, but one thing hasn't changed: the Sea Ox line is still noted for being super rugged, super well built.

The 230C walkaround cabin model I recently looked over had innovations that make her a good fishing boat, but with a cabin so she's also a great family boat.

The cuddy is a straighforward layout with no excess frills, ideal for a fishing family. The materials for bunks, bulkheads and overheads all lend themselves to easy cleaning and durabilty. There's a concealed head, lights, V-bunks and storage compartments for clothes, food, charts and safety gear.

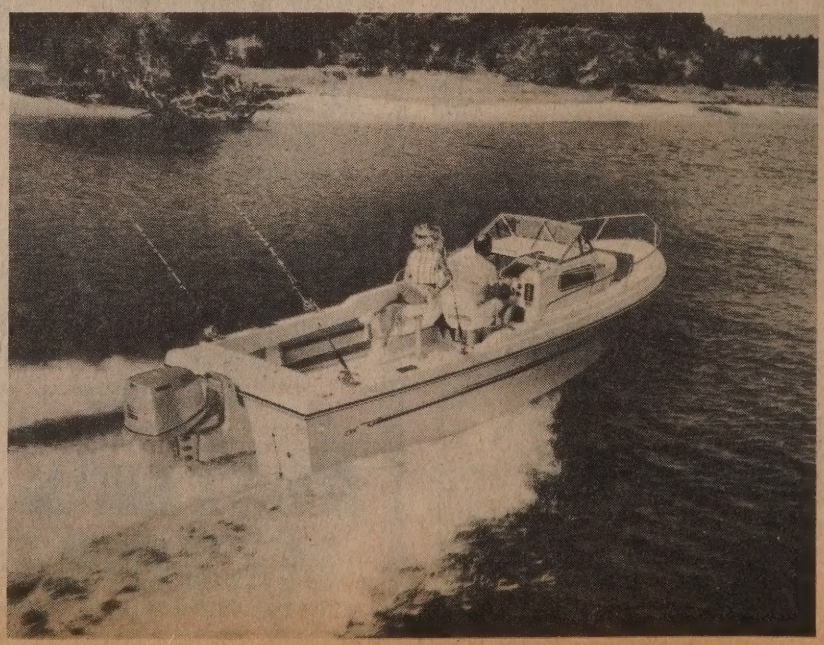
The walkaround area is wide and deep enough for sure footing even while wearing clumsy boots so the forward can be fished from—a convenience while chumming blues, drifting for fluke or while fighting big game from a standing position.

The anchor locker is on the small side, but can hold up to 400 feet of line—plenty for most fishermen.

The helm station is comfortable and there is space for every kind of electronics you can add, including Loran, recorder, temp gauges, radio, etc. It is all within arms reach and quickly accessible.

Dual helm chairs are okay as standard items, but tackle locker seats, at least on the port side would add generous tackle storage without losing any space. Sea Ox offers a single seat leaning post with built-in tackle drawers, cooler and padded seat that is very well thought out. A pair of them in place of the helm chairs would turn the 230C into a floating tackle shop.

The deck is unusual, with a sandy



pattern non-skid surface and is one of the most sure-footed I've seen; an advantage while mackerel fishing or when bluefishing is really good and fish are flopping all over the deck.

Two huge 112 qt. size fish boxes are built into the deck and drain overboard. These boxes are large enough to hold tuna or sharks, or you can use one box for fish, the other for washdown hoses, soap and cleaning supplies. At rest, water will partially fill the boxes unless you install plugs at the drains.

Rod storage is adequate with two trolling rods per side stored under the gun'ls. Smaller rods can be doubled up in the holders.

Small compartments are built into the outboard sides of the deck at the helm stations serving as cold storage for drinks, food or bait.

One seemingly small item, but large on comfort for fishermen is the toe space at the deck under the rod racks. You can get right up close to the gun'ls without having to lean against the gun'l for support. This is a nice touch for any kind of fishing.

Looking closely at the hardware and overall construction, I was impressed with the neatness of the work and the choice of hardware. All metal parts are marine grade aluminum, stainless or heavily chromed metal that should last for many seasons.

While teak was used for rod racks, deck pads, cabin door, some interior trim and at the helm station, teak was not overdone. There's just enough of it to make the boat look nice without requiring lots of time spent on cleaning. Most of us would rather fish than clean teak.

Sea Ox provides its own canvas as an option and if you go the full route, the cabin can be completely enclosed against bad weather or to keep spray from drenching you and the crew.

There's also a factory option hard top with built-in electronics box and overhead rod racks to not only increase rod storage capability but to keep the rods and reels dry while making runs in sloppy seas.

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The specs below are for the outboard version of the 230C. It is also available with similar specifications with Sea Drives or twin stern drives.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	22'9"
Beam	96"
Hull Draft	11"
Transom Height	25"
Maximum Horsepower	240
Dry Weight	2800 pounds
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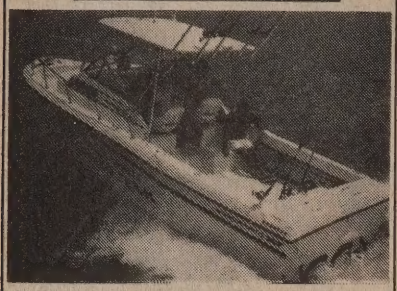

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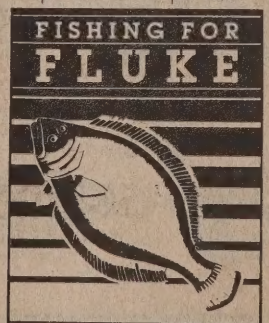

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doctor:

Enjoy the new column and have a question for you. On my last trip to Lake Hopatcong, I broke the tip on my favorite plug casting rod. It had a Fugi tip, the one with a hard inner ring and while fishing, the ring slipped out of the outside holder and down the fishing line until it hung up in the lure. Fortunately, I had another rod in the boat and could continue fishing, but if I had carried only one rod I would have been finished for the day.

Is there a quick way to repair a tip or some kind of repair kit available for on-the-spot repairs? I can imagine what a problem this might have been if I were fishing some remote lake in Canada or some island in the Tropics where tackle shops are not readily available. Dick Huntz.

Dear Dick,

Your problem is certainly not a new one. It's happened to us on more than one occasion and not always when we were near a tackle shop. Once, when fishing the remote Rangely Lakes section of Maine, we snapped about four inches off the tip of a favored bamboo fly rod and it was the only one we had with us at the time. We had to jury rig a snake guide at the end of the break and use it as a tip. It worked, but made casting much harder than if we had the foresight to carry spare parts.

You can purchase a Pocket Tip-Top Replacement kit from Mildrum Guide Company or you can jury rig the line through the last regular guide and use it as a tip-top. You won't get as much distance in your casts and it is not as much fun fighting a fish because the rod is much stiffer, but at least you can continue fishing. And that's a lot better than sitting around while your buddies enjoy the time of their lives.

I hate to cut a rod to fit a new tip, but quite often this is the only way to repair a broken tip. Some manufacturers use epoxy glue to affix the tips and when one breaks you have no choice but to cut the rod and mount a new tip. For this reason alone, we now have tips in several diameters stored in our tackle box. If we do break a tip or guide we can make on the spot repairs without losing too much fishing time.

In a pinch you can use electrician's tape to hold the guide in place and when your trip is finished you can do a correct wrap job with thread, color preservative and epoxy finish.

* * *

Tackle Doctor:

What is the best time to get rid of old fishing rigs? I've been using the same fluke rig for three seasons and have caught many, many fluke on it. Am I taking a chance on losing a really big fluke by using this same rig? Scotty Finnigan.

Dear Scotty,

You are a lucky person. I cannot imagine using the same rig for three trips, let alone three seasons. I generally lose a rig or two each time I go fishing and even if I don't lose the rig, I will throw the hook away and replace it with a new one for the next trip.

Sharp, unrusted hooks are as vital to successful fishing as fresh bait, and they are the least expensive part of a fisherman's arsenal.

It is very hard to visualize not hanging bottom or having a fluke swallow a hook on each and every fishing trip. That's why we carry a dozen or more spare rigs in our oversize tackle box. Why take a chance when you can replace a rig for less than a buck? You never know when Mr. Big is going to inhale your bait and when he does, you want every possible ingredient to be as near perfect as possible. Old rigs just do not measure up to the task, as many a disappointed fisherman can attest. A lot of potential World Record fish have been lost because the angler did not take the time to check and re-check his terminal tackle. It is better to be pound wise than penny foolish when it comes to fishing rigs.

* * *

Dear Tackle Doctor:

I am a recent subscriber to The Fisherman and enjoy it immensely. When I saw the new column (Tackle Doctor), I decided you might be able to help me with a few answers to questions that I have.

I do a lot of fishing for fluke, sea bass, winter codfish and other bottom species, as well as weaks, blues and striped bass. As a winter project I would like to try making my own sinkers, not so much to save money, but to while away those idle hours. I've heard of several types of molds; some made of metal and others in a soft material. Is there any advantage

to one above the other? Also, where can I obtain the molds locally and do you know of a place that handles scrap lead? Mike Hunt.

Dear Mike,

Glad you enjoy The Fisherman. We try to keep abreast of what is new on the fishing scene and to then relay the info to our readers as quickly as possible, and we do attempt to bring into focus the many fishing spots that are producing and the techniques that work in each specific area.

In answer to your questions. You can purchase sinker molds at many local tackle shops, and if they don't have exactly what you seek, you can order through a mail order house such as Netcraft, Tackle Box, Jack Blades and many others. Check the classified section for some sources. We've yet to try the soft material molds, but others who use them say they are just as easy to use as the metal type. We have on more than one occasion made a mold out of plaster of paris just to cover one type of lure that was not readily available. These home-made molds do not last long, but will get the job done in a pinch.

Scrap lead can be purchased from a scrap metal dealer (junkyard to us scavengers), or you might check with some local gas station owner to see if he will sell you his wheel weights (when wheels are balanced, new leads are added and the old ones tossed into a bin for re-sale to a scrap metal dealer or someone like yourself).

For a number of years, we got our used lead at one of the rifle and pistol ranges. This is work and it is also time consuming and at today's prices, you are probably better off buying new lead than digging out the spent bullets.

You'll also need some type of pot in which to melt the lead and a ladle to pour the sinkers. Unless you do a lot of fishing, you won't recover your original cash outlay for a number of seasons, but as you mention, it is a wonderful way to ward off Cabin Fever.

* * *

Tackle Doctor:

I have a lot of money invested in saltwater fishing rods, reels and terminal equipment. What is the best way to keep them free of that nasty green corrosion? Some friends have suggested I wash the equipment after each fishing trip (using fresh water, of course), but from what I've seen, this is not the answer. What's your method? Bruce Weinstein.

Dear Bruce,

You might as well know now; there is no way you will completely control corrosion. The reels, those little goodies that set us back a lot of quid at purchase time, will always suffer some minor corrosion because the water lays under the line and will, in time, cause the spool to corrode from the bottom. But the innards of your reels can be washed with a fine spray mist (fresh water), dried and then coated with a film of some rust prohibiting chemical such as WD-40, Tri-Flon or CRC.

Do not use a heavy washdown when attempting to clean the rods and reels. By doing so you will cause water to seep into the guts of your reels and it will cause them to rust. A fine spray combats this rusting action and at the same time, removes loose particles of sand or salt. When you coat the reel with a film of WD-40 you are adding insurance to this preventive maintenance.

Lures can be dunked in a wash tube of warm fresh water and then washed down with a mild soap. After washing you can rinse them in clean water which will remove the perfume smell. Allow the lures to air dry by placing them on a regular household dish tray and they will look like new for several seasons.

A lot of saltwater anglers go one step further by waxing their rods at season's end. A thin coating of glass wax will keep the finish looking like new and will add years of service to your gear.

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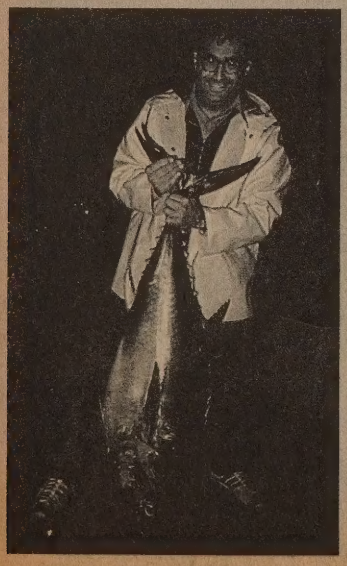

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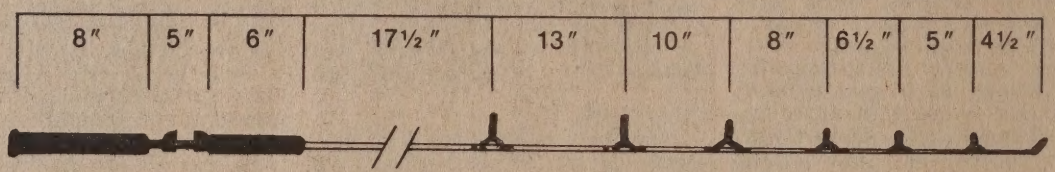
LONG, LIGHT & POWERFUL

by Gary Diamond

Here's a spinning rod that offers versatility at reasonable cost. Best of all, you can build it yourself.

"Set the damned hook, boy," the captain shouted. I'll never forget those words being screamed into my ear as I leaned back on my spinning rod hoping to hook up with my first slammer bluefish. The tip of the rod nearly touched the handle as I attempted to plant the barb firmly in the fish's jaw. I was confident that I could land a big blue on spinning tackle, but during the late 50s, most spinning outfits were constructed of solid fiberglass and had all the power of a wet noodle. After several hook-ups and subsequent losses, I reluctantly went back to using the heavy boat rods that the other anglers on the boat were having success with. The rigs used on the charter boats in those days had the action of a pool cue and the reels resembled a Jeep winch loaded with aircraft cable.

A lot of things have changed since that day off the Jersey Coast. Fishing tackle became lighter, more durable and in many cases, less costly. In the late 50s, a high quality boat rod



Guide spacing is critical. Follow these measurements and your rod should provide multiple duty service.

Full flex action plus lots of "beef" at the butt, make this fishing rod a "do everything" piece of equipment for novice or experienced angler.

rigged with a heavy duty, level wind reel ran nearly $100, or about two weeks salary. That same rig today will cost you about $150, but in most instances, this sum now only amounts to about a half week's salary. Back then, spinning tackle was considered only for freshwater and most blue-water anglers scorned their use for anything other than catching bait. But, the advent of graphite has changed this aspect of fishing to the point where some spinning outfits have more hook setting power than a lot of heavier boat rods.

More than likely, you won't find this type of spinning rod on the rack of your local tackle shop; you'll have to build it yourself. The cost of the components is about $100, depending on where you buy them. The mail order outfits are generally a bit less expensive and shipping time usually runs about two weeks.

To develop the hook setting power needed, a Lamiglas GLB-901-M blank was selected from one of the mail order outfits. The blank is 7' 6" in length and six inches removed from the tip makes it a perfect fit for a size 8 tip-top. This minor modification also makes the rod action change significantly—it now has twice the hook setting power and capable of casting lures weighing up to four ounces with ease.

Guide sizes, of course, will vary with your selection of reel, but the spacing will remain approximately the same as in the diagram. This particular six guide configuration seems to allow the minimum amount of friction and line slap while loading the blank evenly.

When you're trying to manhandle a big slammer blue or drum, the extra long fore and butt grip give you the added leverage needed to quickly bring the fish to bay. Either cork rings or foamlite may be used for handle construction. Both do an excellent job.

The size of the reel seat will also vary depending on reel selection. For this particular rod, a five inch, black anodized Varmac with a 25/32 I.D. was used. You'll find this seat fits most medium sized spinning reels and has a double locking ring set.

Last, but not least, the butt cap is epoxied in place. The Varmac #BB-2 has a large mushroom end which prevents a lot of pain when rested against your gut. If you use a gimbal belt, nylon gimbals are available and look good. They'll also lock your rod in the correct position while in the holder or belt. A word of caution though: be sure the slots are properly aligned when using a gimbal butt. If the slot is off just a few degrees, this will put excessive side pressure on the rod and could result in breakage.

Now all you'll have to do is coat the wraps with a good epoxy finish and wait for the blues to arrive next spring. You'll be able to cast to the "hawgs" in the shallows or jig the slammers from the depths with ease. You'll have all the hook setting power you'll need for both.

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Contemplating a trip south to challenge the ghostly bonefish, acrobatic tarpon or the elusive permit?

Fishing the Flats

By Mark Sosin and Lefty Kreh

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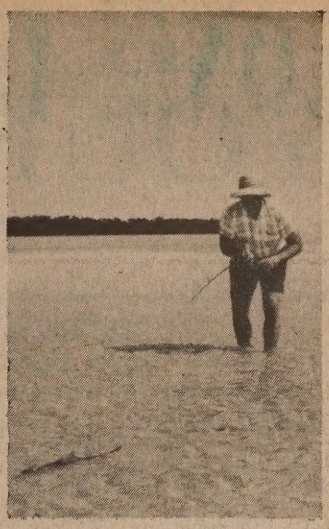

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TRANSPORTING YOUR SURF GEAR

by Tom FitzSimmons

Here's an efficient way for two-wheeling surfmen to tote along a sizable collection of their favorite plugs.

How many times have you watched with envy as a beach buggy pulled into the parking lot, knowing that with the space available in the buggy the owner is able to carry virtually all his equipment, including a large variety and selection of plugs necessary to fish any condition that may present itself, while you were using the family car with its limited trunk space to carry as much equipment as possible to make your expeditions as efficient as possible?

As with the rest of us who fish with this same limitation, I am sure you have tried the best you could to make that trunk area hold all the equipment you feel is important and necessary in order to fish properly, but as often as you have tried to stretch the trunk it never quite seems large enough to make it possible to efficiently hold the large assortment of plugs you want to carry in the fall, along with all your bait gear just in case you decide to try bait fishing that evening.

I have found though, that with a little careful planning and the use of your, or a friend's, workshop you can construct a fishing box for your car trunk that, although it will not hold all the equipment a buggy has space for, it will provide you with an efficient method for holding a sizeable selection of plugs that won't become a mass of tangled hooks the minute you hit a hole or bump in the road, plus providing space for other miscellaneous equipment that is always handy to have with you when you're out fishing for the evening.

Before I begin to describe how to construct the box, remember that all car trunks are different sizes and since we all have different priorities as far as fishing goes, you should keep in mind that you may want to adjust the size and shape of the box I will be describing to fit your personal needs.

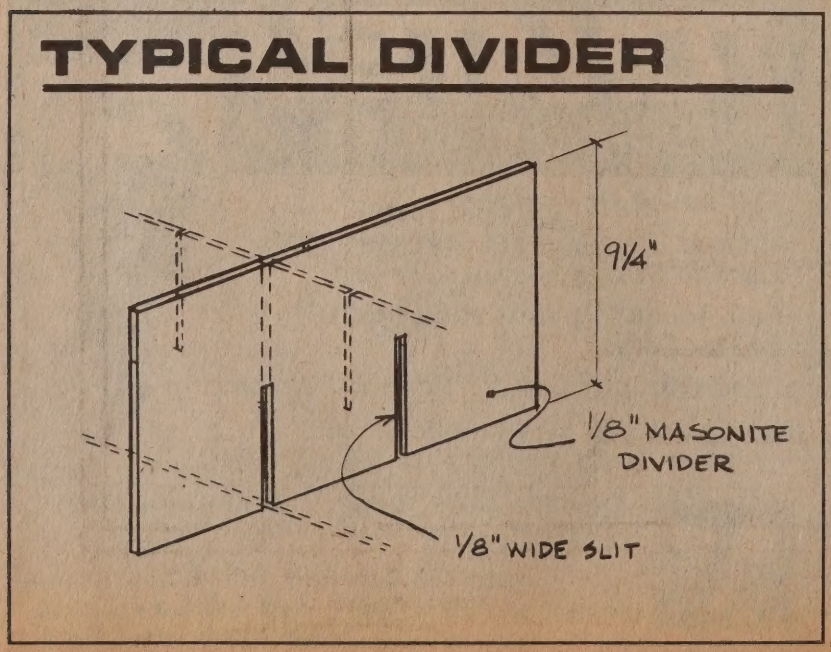
I planned the box based on the optimum use it would give me throughout the season. Since I use small 4½'' Rebels and other small plugs at the beginning of the season, and in the fall I know I will be using Atom 40' and other plugs of approximately the same size, I quite naturally laid out the box to fit these larger plugs. With the dividers spaced to accommodate the bigger plugs it also allows me to carry up to three smaller plugs in the same single divider.

The first thing to do is to construct the sides, bottom and top of the box using a finished grade of 1/2 inch plywood for the sides and 1/4 inch plywood for the bottom and top. The depth inside the box should be approximately 9½'' to accommodate the larger plugs for the fall. Therefore, the front and rear side should be cut approximately 20''x9½'' and the two remaining sides at 14-7/8''x9½''. This will allow for approximately 24 masonite dividers plus two storage compartments. The dividers should be about 1¾''x2¾'' to fit the larger plugs. Before you begin to assemble the sides, seven 1/8'' wide x 3/16'' deep slots should be cut into one of the side panels with a dato or other saw blade to receive the masonite dividers. These should be cut every 1-7/8'' on center with the first slot cut at 1-13/16'' from the end. The front and rear sides should also be datoed at one end for the masonite dividers, cutting the first slot at 2-13/16'' with the remaining 2 at 2-7/8'' on center. Also cut one more slot in the front and rear sides about midway between the last slot and the right end of the panels. This will allow you to put in a removable masonite panel to divide the open storage area in half to further compartmentalize the box.

Once the slots have been cut you can begin to assemble all four sides, squaring them up as you go. Butt the end of the side panel against the front and rear sides or, if you wish to get fancy, you could saw cut dato joints at the corners. Apply some Elmer's Carpenter Glue at the butt joints of each side and then nail them together with finishing nails or you could screw them together using flathead screws with countersunk heads.

Next cut a bottom panel from the 1/4'' plywood, cut it to fit about 1/8'' back from the face edge of the side panels. Turn the assembled sides upside down and after adding a bead of glue around the edges of all four sides, position the base and nail or screw it to all 4 sides.

Now the top. Cut another piece from the 1/4'' plywood to fit the box. The top should be the same size as the overall outside dimensions of the assembled sides. Attach this to the rear panel with either a continuous piano hinge cut to fit or with a pair of small galvanized or brass butt hinges.



To attach the hinges to the 1/4'' top you will have to drill through the top and use small round head machine screws with lock washers and nuts to hold the hinges in place. Regular wood screws should work fine to attach the hinges to the rear panel. Remember to keep the screw head to the outside of the box. Next, pick up an inexpensive knob at your local hardware store and attach it, again with screws, washers and nuts about 2'' from the front edge and midway between each side of the 1/4'' plywood top.

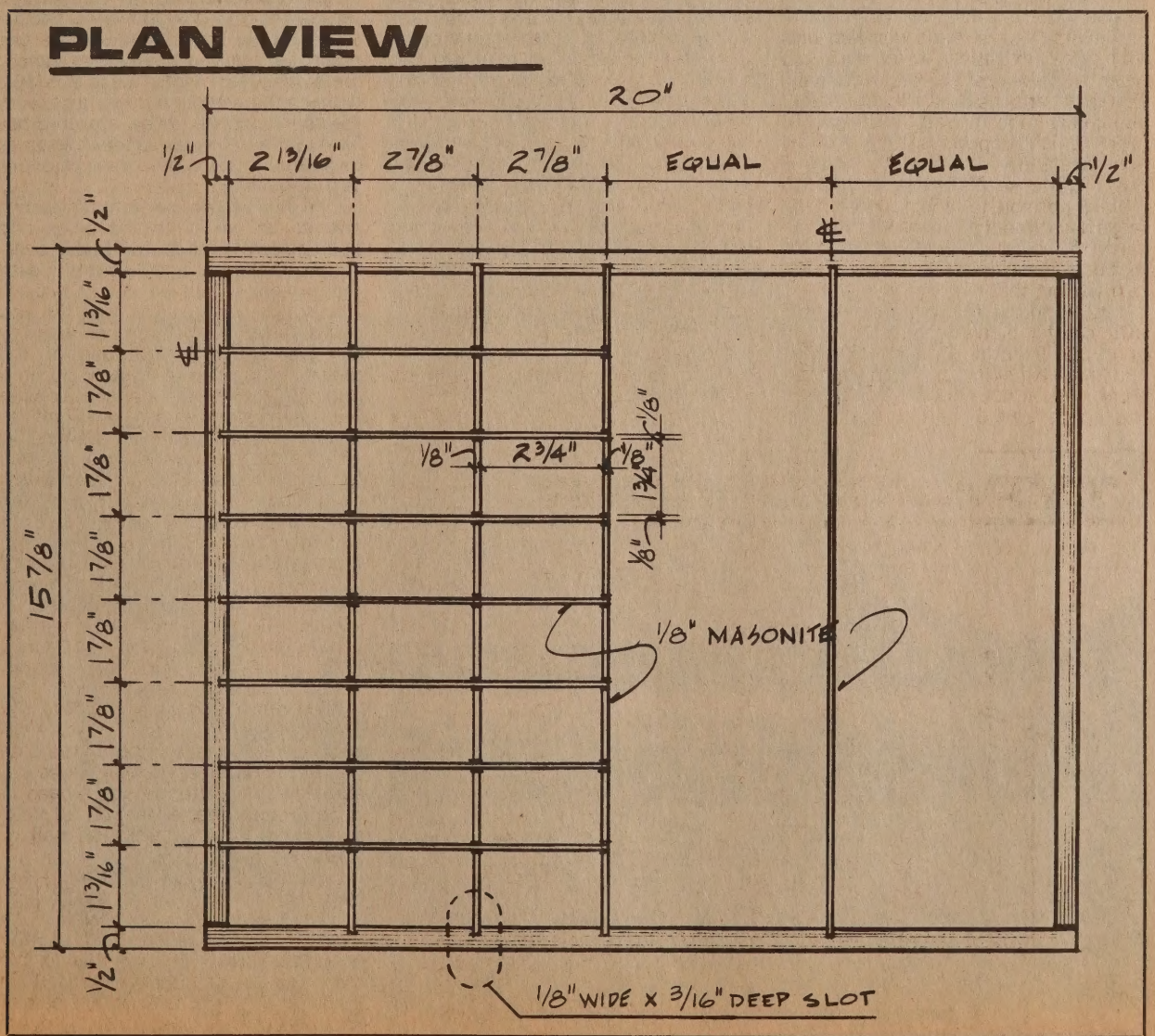
Now that the basic box is built, it is time to cut and assemble the dividers. Since the inside depth of the box is approximately 9½'', cut strips of 1/8'' masonite, 1/4'' less than the height and equal to the length of the inside of the box from the front to rear panel including the depth of the slots that you previously cut. Remember to reduce this overall dimension by about 1/16'' to allow clearance for the strips, so they can easily be slipped into the slots.

Since each of the dividers is set up in three rows of eight dividers deep, you will have to cut four long pieces of masonite and seven shorter pieces. The shorter pieces should be cut equal to the dimension from the plywood side (with the precut slots) to the outside edge of the last slot in the front and rear side plus the depth of the slot at the side. After the dividers are cut to their correct lengths, tape all of the long dividers together at both ends and mark centerlines on the masonite to correspond with each of the seven slots on the side of the box. Using a table or radial arm saw, cut a slit equal to the thickness of the masonite through all three dividers at the centerlines you just marked. Make certain to cut approximately 1/16'' past the centerline of the 9-1/4'' height. Repeat this with the seven shorter dividers' cutting slits to accommodate the long dividers. When assembled, the dividers will interlock with each other at the slits so, remembering that the long dividers will be set up with the slits facing up, cut the shorter dividers along the outside edge that will fit over the last long divider, again approximately 1/16'' past the centerline of the divider height.

Now fit all of the masonite dividers together inside the box, hold them together securely and run a small bead of glue along each joint. Let this dry and the dividers will be held securely in place. Cut one more long divider from the masonite which can then be inserted (without glue) to act as a removable divider between the slots that were cut to split the box into the two storage compartments. If you run into any difficulty, the accompanying drawing should clear up any questions you may have.

Besides modifying the box to fit your trunk and your specific needs, you may also wish to add a screen hook and eye, or some other form of positive latch to keep the top closed.

I am sure that you will find this storage box very handy and helpful during the upcoming seasons and it will definitely aid in making you more efficient during those long nights of fishing when changing weather conditions or other factors can call for a different type of plug that you may not have been able to carry with your otherwise.



ROD BUILDING AIDS

by Dick Mermon

Rod building need not be a laborious pastime as this veteran of the fishing rod industry can attest.

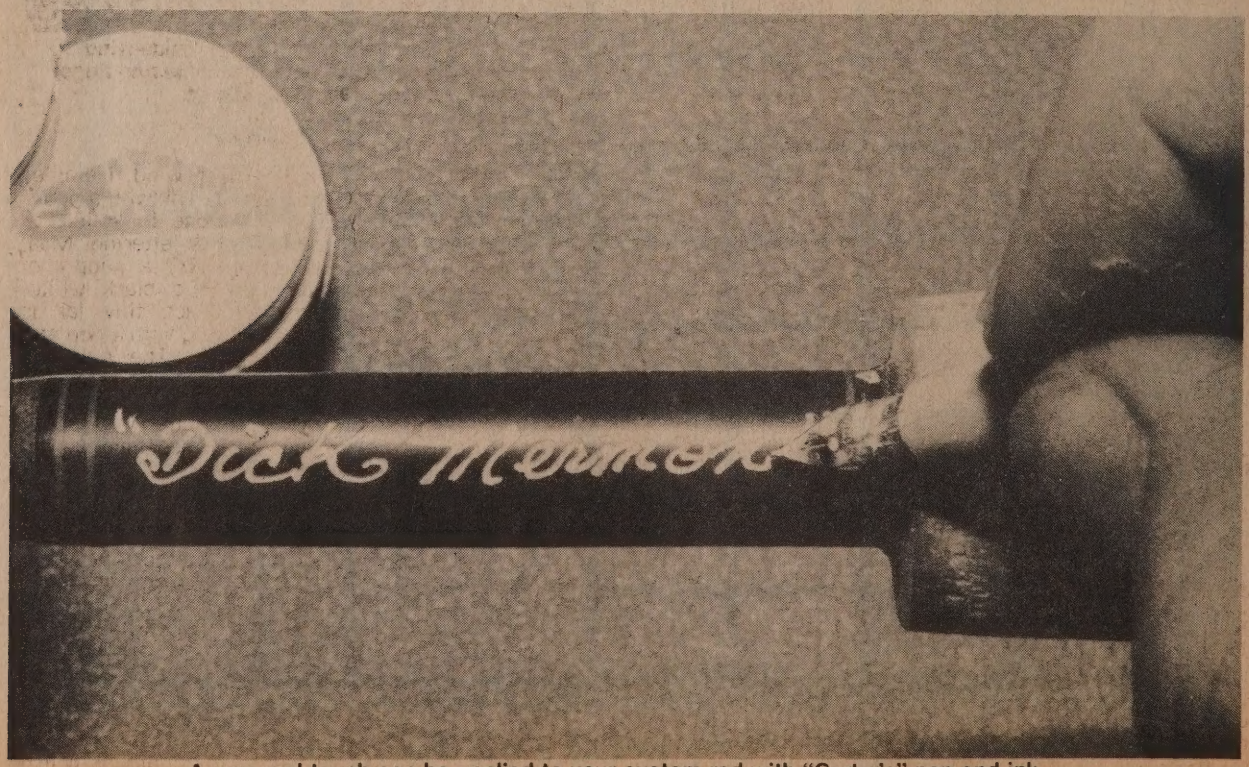
Constructing one's own fishing rod offers a type of gratification that only those anglers who have ventured into this realm can appreciate. However, as these rod builders discovered, there were several pitfalls and frustrations which had to be overcome before they reached that plateau of satisfaction. Each and every one had to learn the little tricks that made the job easier to produce the ultimate end product.

One hindrance, or rather technique that always seems to stymie a rod builder (including myself for a time), was how to prevent the beginning overwind from leaving a stub-end sticking up, or a slight mound. The operation seemed to be three things at one time, with only two hands to do the job. It does sound confusing, but the technique is very manageable once tried a few times. One procedure is to place a small strip of masking tape over the windings to prevent them from unraveling, or loosening, then cut the underlocked thread free. However, in some instances, the tape's glue will adhere to the thread, going unnoticed until the color-preserver is applied. By then, it has become part of the fixture.

Another suggestion in clipping the underlocking thread from the overwinds is to hold the small spool of winding thread with the thumb and middle finger, placing the index finger onto the overwinds. The free hand picks up the razor and applies downward pressure on the protruding stub thread, chopping it off. This procedure is quite acceptable, except (and there always seems to be an "except"), the razor's edge dulls quickly and a deformed safety razor blade never cuts properly.

The best course of action is to develop the technique of using two fingers of one hand to pull on the stub-thread and cut it clean with two other fingers of the same hand at the same time, still holding onto the spool of thread with the other hand. Sounds bewildering? Not really, once it has been tried. The primary feature in this operation is to maintain an extremely sharp razor blade and follow directions outlined, such as: the winding thread spool is held firmly between the thumb and middle finger of one hand and pulled slightly downward, placing tension on the overwinds. Using the thumb and index finger of the other hand, the razor is picked up with the cutting edge facing outward toward the threads. Instead of severing the stub by forcing it against the blank as mentioned previously, the razor is shifted onto the next two fingers, which are the middle and ring. Once these two fingers have grasped the razor (still facing outward), the thumb and index finger now are free to pick up the stub thread end and is pulled tight. With a slight sweep administered by the razor, by bending the fingers inward toward the taut thread, it is cut free, close to the overwinds, leaving a very slight feathered edge protruding. Now, when this fan-shaped edge is overwound, there will be no trace, or nub showing.

The same maneuver can be administered for an end-wind when the thread must pass beneath the overwinds. However, a trifle more finesse



A personal touch can be applied to your custom rod with "Carter's" pen and ink.

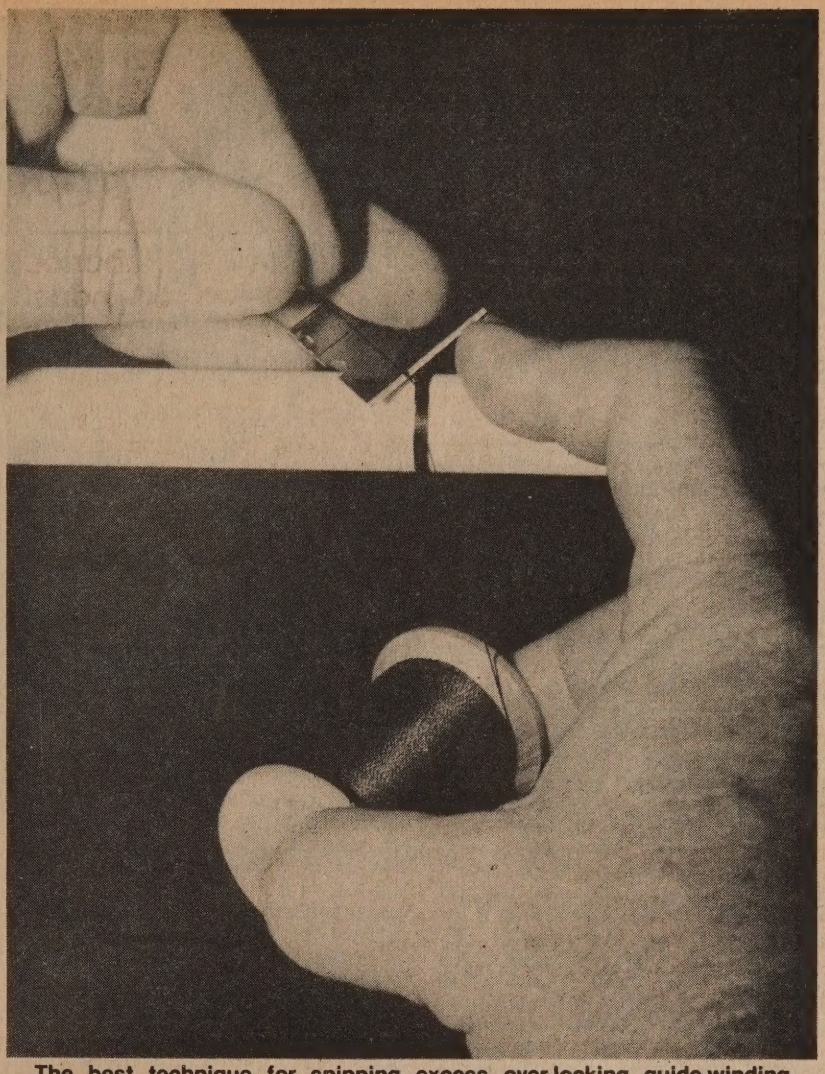
must be shown in manipulation of the cutting blade. Simply pulling the thread-end tight and cutting it off often leaves a tiny stub exposed which can be smoothed out after the preserver dries, but it is never truly flat. To make a cleaner cut with a hidden end, pull the end-wind (after it has passed beneath the overwinds and is cut free of the spool) toward the guide, making certain it is tight, then reverse the action to the opposite direction and slightly downward. Slide the razor edge parallel to the winds and carefully touch the taut end thread. It will cut instantly and jump beneath the stretched overwinds. The action actually elongates the threads under tension, releasing them back into their original shape when cut and leaving little trace of an overwind.

The smoothing of an overwind bulge or sharp threads is done after the color preserver and first epoxy coat is done are completely dried. Excessive mounds are sanded wikth a #120 grade emory cloth, then the area is wiped clean of dust and a second epoxy covering is spread on.

The use of clear lacquer or color preserver is not only employed as a preventive for color fade, but also to bind tight and seal the tiny spaces between thread windings and the excessive gaps called "holidays." A fact which few rod builders realize is that all polyamide embroidery thread deepens in color after being wetted with preserver. Therefore, it is advisable to try some color wettings prior to placing the chosen thread on the rod.

Contemporary final finishes on guide-winds that are available, such as the clear epoxies do not elevate the need for clear lacquer as a first coat. On the contrary, it is highly beneficial and should be on hand at all times in adequate quantities. It can be obtained in pint or quart containers from most auto body, paint supply or hardware stores, then poured into smaller bottles for active use.

Final protective coats on guide windings are extremely important. The finish must retain a hard outer surface, yet show flexibility, resist saltwater, sun, all conditions of weather and not yellow or discolor the threads. There are several serviceable epoxies available, but the one I have found to be most acceptable is manufactured by Flecto Company and called "Decopor." One application covers the windings sufficiently although a second lamination is preferable. When mixing the two honey textured liquids, care must be taken that each part be equal in quantity, or the finished product never hardens. It will remain tacky and any other covering will be influenced by the first. Rotation of the rod after a brushing has been applied is crucial or the thick liquid smear will run to one side and dry uneven. I found that, by laying the rod horizontally and rotating it every few minutes to the opposite resting position for a short duration until jelled, will produce an even covering without use of a rotary motor. Curing time for one dressing is about 20 minutes at room temperature, but the more heat applied, the quicker it will harden. Employment of a hot air hair dryer on the coatings shortens the curing process and also eliminates any tiny air bubbles that may arise from the mixing procedure. Humid, or moist air should be avoided, for it causes the congealing fluid to remain tacky. Hence, the epoxy must be applied in an area void of moisture.



The best technique for snipping excess over-locking guide-winding threads is to hold the razor between the middle finger and the ring finger while the thumb and index fingers pull the end thread taut.

Decopor is bottled in half pint, pint or quart amounts and can be purchased in some hardware stores. The price for a pint, which will remain active in the sealed containers for over a year, is about $8 and will cover a great deal of fishing rod winding threads.

To enhance a more personal touch of a custom crafted rod by the addition of a signature, gives it character, similar to that of an artist's name on a painting. Instead of employing the intricate weave of threads to form a name at the foregrip wind, I employ white or black poster ink with a pen. I simply sign my name in script, or print in bold or gothic lettering. Most stationery stores carry a supply of Carter's ink in colors of black, white, silver and gold. Each tiny jar is affixed to a card along with a pen and instructions for use. The name is written onto the windings after the first epoxy coating has hardened, permitted to dry thoroughly for about ten minutes, then a second covering of epoxy is applied.

Another method of personalizing a fishing rod is with a "Halo" metallic marker. This pen writes in metallic silver, outlined with either red, blue, green or purple and dries instantly upon contact. The center is silver and is "halloed" in a brilliant hue.

These are but a few tricks of the trade which seldom are revealed and without which can make the job laborious and boring, no matter how enjoyable they are assumed to be. It is usually these small techniques which mean the most in the end.

ON THE HOOK

by Matt Ahern

What school age youngster suffering from the fishing bug hasn't been "on the hook" at least once in his or her life?

Ah! The Golden Days. Those of childhood. Of youth. Never more to return. But I am indeed fortunate, for I am continuously overwhelmed by past memories of those glorious days. These shall always remain with me.

Let me stroll along a waterway, let me gaze upon a youngster deep in zealous efforts to convince frisky snappers or cautious flounder as to the worth of a bait, and I see myself as that very same youngster, lo those many years ago. Memory may be triggered by a word, a gesture, or the heady smell of a salt marsh on a day when the air is soft and warm. Let me but witness this and I am filled with nostalgia. Surely, my cup runneth over.

Let us journey back for a few moments to my boyhood, a time when all that mattered to me was fish and fishing. And in that journey to a far off time I'll try not to bore you.

I'll also ask a simple question: as youngsters, how many of you fished in Brooklyn's Prospect Park lake—say 60 or more years ago? Not too many, I'm afraid. But I can easily understand this, for at that time fishing in any of New York City's lakes was strictly forbidden. And of course if you were a "good" boy, you obeyed the law, no matter how alluring and enticing the thought such a call might provoke.

But alas, I suppose I wasn't a "good" boy, for this hindrance was but a minor deterrent for a full-fledged, dedicated hookey player. And in those days I was indeed a full-fledged hookey player.

However, I didn't go "on the hook" to avoid school work. Perish the thought! I actually believed I had a legitimate reason for my occasional absenteeism: I simply wanted to go fishing! As far as my considerations went, it was the "powers-that-be" who failed to place proper importance to that fact.

In those days, a kid on the hook did not absent himself from school without thought or preparation. Even then, in those days, absentee pupils were required to produce an explanatory note from home before returning to school—its main purpose, to separate the truant from the legitimate. But for pupils in Brooklyn's P.S. 83, this was no great problem. We had a "friend," Roger by name, who would gladly write any excuse dreamed up, and he'd cheerfully sign any parent's name to it. For a dime. But if you didn't have that dime, you were on your own. I don't know what happened to our "friend" Roger over the years, but I suspect he did rather well in this old mercenary world of ours, for surely he had the talent for it.

To safely accomplish this hookey playing, I had a regular routine. During winter I visited the old New York Aquarium, in Battery Park. Admission was free in those days and because of this, one might say New York City aided and abetted a multitude of hookey players. The Aquarium not only offered a warm place to browse on bitter winter days, but if you were a dedicated fisherman, it also offered much amusement and fish-learning opportunities. Why truant officers of the day never considered this fish palace an ideal spot for hookey players, I'll never know. I imagine none of those minions of the law was a fisherman, for surely had just one cast his net there, he would have struck pay dirt on any school day.

But before school vacation, when the air was balmy and the heavens bright with promised days to come, Prospect Park lake and its many sunfish and bullheads called to me loud and clear. And because of this, many fine spring mornings found me walking the lake's shoreline with plier-bent straight pin hooks, a supply of black sewing thread for line, and a small cork bobber, all tucked neatly away in my shirt pocket—thus, for company, a dozen or so lint-covered earthworms.

I had one good fishing spot which was surrounded by a thick stand of elderberry and forsythia. To gain that haven meant safety from prying eyes. It was one of my better fishing spots and was first fished by my boyhood chum Artie Leidecker, whom I still fish with today.

Artie and I occasionally went on the hook together, but he was also a sincere believer in the adage Mr. Leidecker quoted to us the day he caught us doing some mischievous thing or other: "Two boys together at any one time," said Mr. Leidecker, "is one boy too many." From then on, Artie took it to heart (and to the seat of his pants), therefore because of this admonishment, much of my later hookey playing was of a solitary nature.

Prospect Park was always a happy hunting ground for New York City's truant officers. Therefore, I was ever on the alert, for the instant I entered the park, I knew I was in danger of being apprehended. At the first sign of a suspicious-looking person, I would quickly duck into the sanctuary of the nearest elderberry or rhododendron bush. I knew even then that this was an insane way to go fishing, but I now must admit, some 60 years later, that it certainly added spice to the game.

On this day I want to tell you about, I arrived at my elderberry/forsythia hidey-hole with no more than the usual amount of caution. And there, lo and behold, I discovered previous hookey players had dug a hole close to the lake wall for no other purpose, I supposed, than to keep their fish in it. It was also brimming full with murky lake water.

I congratulated myself. How lucky could I get, for I had no tool with which to dig such a hole as this. True, I wasn't about to take home any fish I might catch, but that pen would make it easy for me to keep my captives alive and allow me an accurate count when I returned them to the lake.

Well, anyway, I set up shop and in no time at all that little bobber was dipping beneath the lake's surface and I was landing one pretty sunfish after another, with an occasional beady-eyed, disenchanged bullhead to sort of add variety to the catch.

An hour or so later while engaged in unhooking a squirming sunfish, I heard a voice behind me. It was of Irish origin, one with a rolling brogue thick enough to cut with a knife.

I whirled around, still clutching the struggling sunfish. There, bent low enough to enable him to peer through the bushes, was a giant of a policeman. Tufts of orange-red hair peeked from beneath his cap. Light blue eyes skewed mine with an all-knowing stare.

"Well, now, and what do we have here?" the voice inquired.

I dropped the sunfish into the lake and stood mute. After all, when you're ten years old...

"Come out here where I can see you properly," I was ordered. "No school today, lad?"

Maybe I was a knee pants kid, and

Youngsters of every generation are lured by the mystique of angling.

maybe I didn't know which end was up at the time, but I had an answer for that. "I'm sick," I replied.

"Sick, is it? Um-m-m-m-...you must be, for I can see how pale you are. However, lad, if you're sick why aren't you home in bed?"

He had me there.

Reaching into his inside jacket pocket, he brought forth a notebook and pencil. He wet the pencil point with his lips, looked over the pencil for defects and wet it again.

"Um-m-m-m," he mused, "guess I'll have to report you. You've broken the law; two of them, in fact. You must be one of those hardened criminals I hear about. And we can't have such law-breakers in the park, now, can we? No, sir, we can't. I'll have to inform the proper authorities, too. What's your name, me bucko, and where do you live?"

Well, I hadn't expected that. I wasn't foolish enough to give my true name and address, so I relied on a bit of fiction drummed up on the spur of the moment. He seemed satisfied, for he wrote both fibs down without comment.

"All right, lad. I'll make it easy for you, hardened criminal that you are. Pack up your things and go home. I don't want to see you in this park again on school days. Agreed?"

I shrugged my shoulders and nodded.

"Okay, lad, off with ye now." He walked a few feet away and turned. "And how many fish did ye catch?" From where I stood, I could see an Irish grin, made more infectious by the good-natured twinkle in his blue eyes.

I didn't reply, but instead walked along the flagstone path toward Eastern Parkway and my trolley stop. I was almost there when I stopped short in my tracks. The fish! I knew they would surely die if left in that pen. Back I went, unmindful now of truant officers. Anyway, I figured as I'd already been caught by the police, what a truant officer had to offer would be small potatoes.

I ran down the path and ducked into the hidey-hole. I plunged my arm into the murky water and felt around. I came up empty. Not a fish could I feel. Then it dawned on me. Not only had those previous hookey players dug that hole, they had continued it into the lake, a matter of a foot or so. I'd returned for nothing.

Because I wasn't in too big a hurry to leave the park, I spent several minutes gazing across the lake. I wondered about the mysterious life that lived in its waters. Close by, I noticed a school of sunfish slurping newly-hatched insects from the surface. I marveled at the evenly-spaced concentric rings left behind by the feeding fish. Those rings seemed never to grow larger, but just float away from sight. I guess I spent too much time in these wonderments, because again came that Irish voice.

"Come out here, lad," the voice commanded. "I knew you'd be back. And what was it we agreed on? Man to man, now."

I tried to explain about the fish and the hole.

He shook his head. "'Tis a likely story and I'll have none of it." He brought forth the notebook and pencil. "And what did you say your name was?"

I sucked in my breath. Oh, my! For the life of me, I couldn't recall the name I'd used.

"All right, lad; now give me your true name and address. And no more games." When he jotted them down, he said, "Well, well, well. Another Irishman, after me own heart. And an untruthful one at that. That will never do. Um-m-m-m...what am I to do with ye? I can easily tell you're a hard lot." He hesitated a moment. "I know I'll rue the day, but hop to it, lad. Scoot! And don't ye come back today! Understood?"

I nodded and watched him walk off. This time he didn't turn around.

And he never reported me to the school authorities, although I worried over my fate for a week or more. Roger got his dime the next day and I got the opportunity to go lake fishing in Prospect Park several more times before school closing. However, I never did see that Irish policeman again.

It was a shame, too, for I'll never forget him. He was but one of the many "old-timers" who taught this hookey player what it means to have compassion and a sense of humor as one wandered down life's corridors.

And I guess we can certainly use that today.

SCORING WITH PERCH

by Alan Flexer

Catching white perch in the throes of winter can be both pleasant and productive, as the author discovered a long time ago.

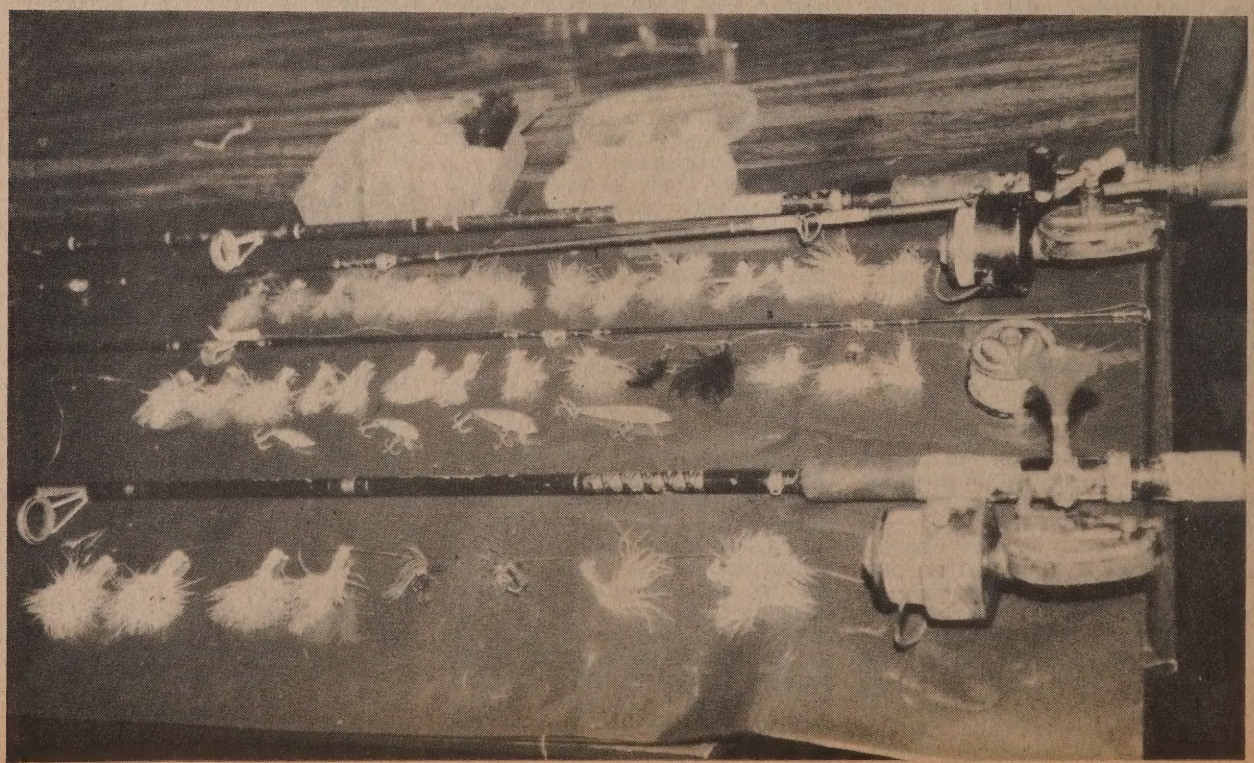
It's cold outside on this late November morning. The wind is north at ten miles per hour and this means it will be blowing right into my face. I take my cotton knit beanie and ski mask to give my head and face added protection. I load my gear which includes chest waders, two Mitchell 300 spinning reels filled with 4 and 6 pound test and two, 5 foot rods. In my satchel, I carry extra line, jigs, hooks, split shot, sinkers, Krazy Glue and boot cement. I put the water on for the thermos and remind myself not to forget the donuts. It's 5:15 AM; the sun won't rise until 6:30. As the car is warming up, I load everything into the trunk and head for the Long Island Expressway. That will take me anywhere I want to go on Long Island. I have yet to decide as to where I want to fish this day, but I know that white perch will be my target.

When I fish for white perch, I don't use bait. I get all my perch on a feathered jig. Only in an extreme case would I resort to the use of bait. Such a case would be if the water is almost completely covered with ice. I would then use night crawlers or killies. If none are available, I use clams which I keep in my freezer at all times.

I begin fishing for white perch around the first of October and continue until the beginning of June. The past four winters, I have enjoyed very good success with perch, primarily because I work hard at it. Soon, my friend and winter fishing buddy, Carl Fritzsche will show up. He is normally a striped bass and weakfish man but in the cold of winter, it's all white perch. Carl used to use only blood worms and clams until I introduced him to the use of night crawlers. Now he's into my kind of fishing: the little feathered jig. It's working out just fine for him. He's catching fish and his mother Ellen is happy that he is using jigs. This means no more dead worms or smelly clams in the refrigerator. I also fish with two Russian immigrants: one is called Urie, but I can't recall the name of the other guy. They have been using killies and clams. They watched me using my jig and now they're trying them.

Before you can start fishing for white perch, you must know a little about them: what their feeding habits are, the way they travel, where most of them are going to be found, etc. Every year is different. To begin with, white perch will usually be found in freshwater lakes and reservoirs, and in tidal rivers where fresh water meets salt. Check the tide schedule where you plan to do your fishing because the best time to find and catch perch is on the incoming tide. There are other factors which must be considered. For example: when the moon is full, very few fish are caught during the day hours. The reason is that during this time, they feed at night. I hate the wind; especially the winter wind, but if it is calm, very few fish will be caught. If you have a little breeze, you'll have fish.

There are many places where white perch can be caught. Here are a few of the better locations on Long Island: Fort Pond, Montauk; Mecox Bay in the Hamptons on the marsh side; Bull Head Bay, Sebonac Neck near the golf course. Sunken Meadow State Park on the marsh side. Connetquot River,



An assortment of jigs favored by the author along with a few small minnow-shaped swimmers.

Oakdale; Lake Ronkonkoma (freshwater license is required); Valley Stream Mill Pond behind Herman's, Patchogue's Mud Creek and the Lilco plant in Northport.

I prefer Sunken Meadow State Park. It has been good to me and I have gotten to know those waters like the back of my hand. I fish there and in Bull Head Bay throughout the winter and spring.

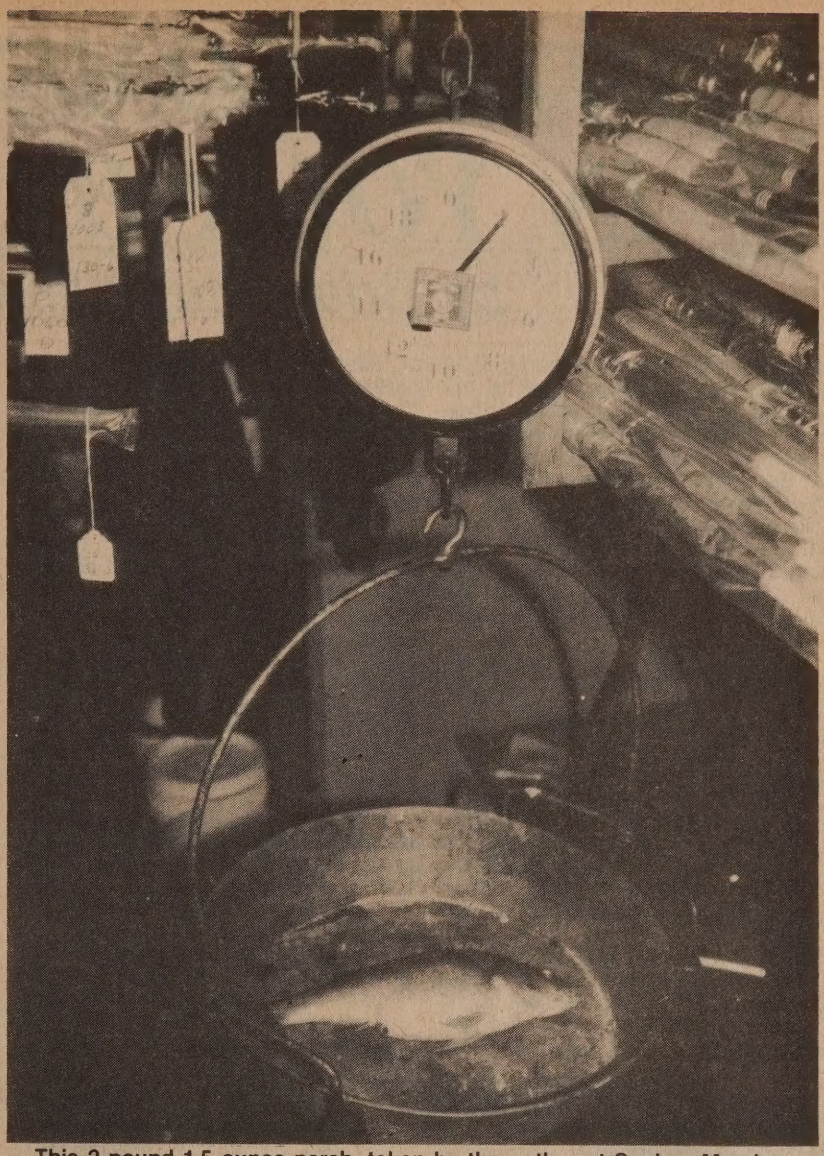
Winter fishing is not an easy task. You have to be physically fit in order to withstand the cold, the wind, the snow and the ice. There have been times when I have had to walk through the water to crack thin layers of ice just so that I can get to a clear spot from which I can jig.

Eighty percent of this fishing is done by jigging. You can buy feathered crappie jigs at Beckmann's on Sunrise Highway in Lynbrook and I'm sure other shops on the Island stock them as well. Other baits that you can use are: night crawlers sand worms and blood worms. You can use them whole, in half or in quarters depending on their size. You could try using a whole night crawler on a size four baitholder, with a 12 inch leader of 12 to 15 pound test and a small split shot about 6 inches above the leader. Cast this out about 50 to 60 feet and let it go to the bottom. Wait a few minutes and move it two or three feet. Keep repeating this process until you get a bite and then wait for the fish to run with the bait before you set the hook. In using clams, you can cut them long and thin, just as you would if you were fishing for flounder and fish in the same manner. you can follow the same procedure when using worms.

Killies and other live fish bait are used in different ways. I still use a size four Eagle claw with a 12 inch leader. You should use a split shot depending on where you're fishing and it should be about 15 inches from the hook. Sometimes you can use a bobber or float. In this case, it should be about 2½ feet from the hook. With the use of a float, a split shot is a must. When fishing without a float, cast out with the killie hooked in the lip, or just below the dorsal fin. Let it go to the bottom and move it along slowly. Another tactic is to give it a little slack and leave it alone. When a perch bites, let him run with it before you set the hook.

Depending on how deep the water is, you can use numerous metal lures. First, they must be from one to two inches in size and 1/8 to 1/4 of an ounce. Cast out and let it go to the bottom, then retrieve it. If you have no hits after a few casts, cast out and let it go halfway down giving it a few small jerks while bringing it in again. If again you have no hits, try fishing just off the top of the water using the same jerking motion. Once you find the level and way in which the fish are hitting, keep repeating that procedure.

Rebels and Rapalas should be no more than 2½ inches on the floating models. When it hits the water, immediately twitch the rod two or three times and leave it alone for a few seconds. Expect a hit at any moment. If there is no hit, bring it in at a slow speed stopping and twitching every 8 to 12 feet. If you still don't get any hits, try casting out and bringing it straight in again. You can do the same with a sinking model until you find the level at which the fish are feeding.



This 2 pound 1.5 ounce perch, taken by the author at Sunken Meadow last November, is a pending 4 pound class world record. The author is the current holder with a fish of 1 pound 15 ounce.

Crappie jigs or jig heads with yellow tails or the tail of a jelly worm weighing 1/32, 1/16, or 1/8 ounce are the size to use. White or yellow work best, but if none are available, light green or brown will do. I've caught perch on any color tail. Cast out and let it go to the bottom. Watch the line because sometimes the fish will hit while the jig is going down. The fish will twitch the line just once and it will be up to you to set the hook at that moment. When the jig hits bottom, bring it in slowly and give it a jerk or twitch every 2 or 3 turns on the reel, sometimes stopping for a second or two before resuming. Sometimes the fish will be feeding right off the top. Work the jig the same way as if you were using a Rebel.

Jigging is not easy to learn. It takes time. I started jigging in 1970 and it took me years to acquire the skills that enable me to score well on a regular basis. You must learn and develop your own way. The way in which you catch fish on a jig will be your personal style of jigging. Jigging is my best method of fishing—not only for perch, but for other fish as well. I have caught most every kind of fish that swim our shores on my jigs.

In conclusion, my advice to all of you who love to fish is: "Don't put your rods away because winter has arrived. Instead of sitting around watching the boob tube, get out there and give this cold weather 'perching' a try."

PUTTING SOME STING IN YOUR BAITS

by Brian Mulholland

Nothing is more irritating than to find the fish you're pursuing getting off the hook (or avoiding it entirely) because of some quirk in biting or striking which you can't quite figure out. Especially if the quarry is the sort where one or two fish are enough to make a decent day (say, a party boat outing in Great South Bay for weakfish), it is endlessly annoying to get your one or two pick-ups and find the fish have made off with half a sandworm.

The first summer I fished for weakfish seriously, I missed half the fish that took a peck at my lure. Like "everyone else" on weakfish party boats, I fish a Mann's jelly worm threaded on a jighead with medium spinning tackle. When the water is cold, I usually garnish the plastic worm with a real sandworm, an investment that seems to be worthwhile (and not all that expensive when measured against the price of the boat ride).

On one particular day on the Captree Queen, I elected to fish bare sandworms alone. Three times in the course of the evening I missed a fish and retrieved a worm fragment. One of those fish stripped the hook bare—that one may have been lucky. The other two bit the worm neatly in half. There were no small bluefish taken on our boat or any nearby one on that particular evening, so weaks probably were the culprits.

That ended my patience with short striking weakfish. Since then I rig all my jelly worms with a small second hook. It should not be big. A size 1 or 2 hook is what I find myself using. A larger hook might spoil the worm's action. I usually tie it on 20 pound monofilament (not leader material) that I thread through the body of the worm with a needle. The object of the exercise is to have the small hook situated at the flat tail end of the worm.

A hook so fitted greatly reduces the number of weakfish missed. I would guess about a quarter of the weakfish I've landed have been on that hook and I think most of them would have escaped without it.

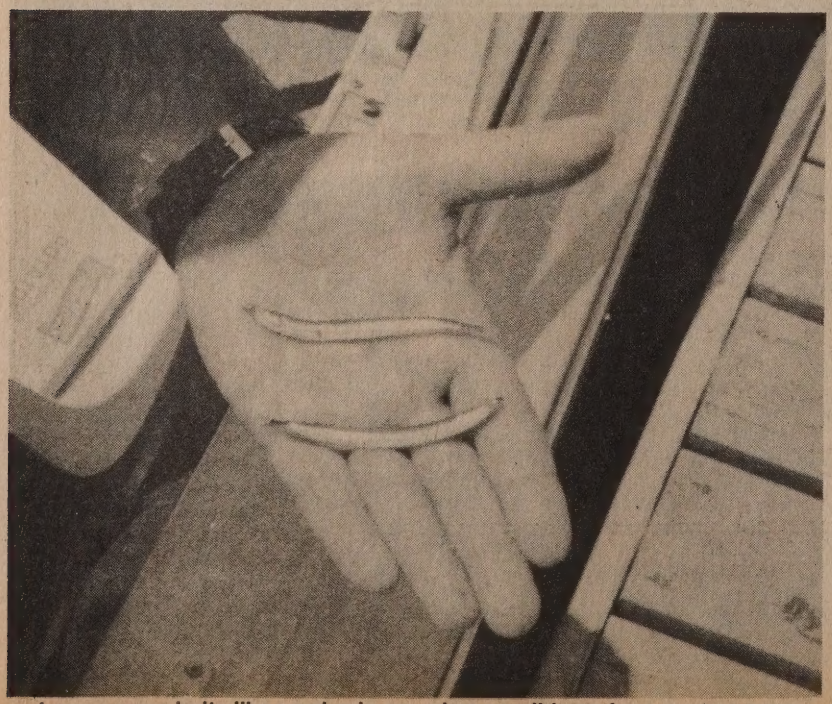
I often see anglers rigging their jelly worm by working a hook back and forth through the body of the worm to the tail. This is a poor way to do it, because you get loops of line sticking out of the jelly worm. The tail hook will foul them when you cast. Worse still, the hard mono will break apart any soft sandworm you try to string next to the jelly worm. Use a needle, make a neat job and you solve both problems.

Fluke share similar habits. How many times have you retrieved half a killie? Knowledgeable fluke anglers talk about giving the fluke ample opportunity to mouth the bait by using a dropback. In theory, the fluke grabs the trailing end of the bait and chews his way uphill. But a dropback can be hard to do when wind and tide are running together to speed the boat at a brisk pace over the bottom. Under those circumstances you may not be able to feel the fish. You need several ounces of lead just to keep your killie within the strike zone at the bottom even if you limit yourself to light line.

Here again, a second hook can help. A simple application can be made by opening and then closing the eye of a trailing hook with a long shank around the bend of the forward hook. This is better done with a strip bait than a killie, but even so you will occasionally find yourself with a fluke that is stuck on the second prong, but well clear of the first. After all, fluke, too, can be hard to come by.

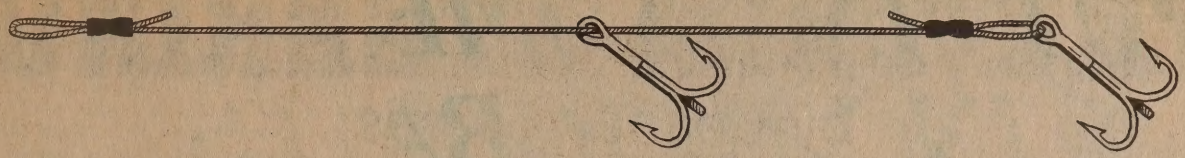
The ultimate tail biters, of course, are bluefish. To some extent the enormous popularity of diamond jigging makes the second hook redundant. Your hook is exactly where you'd want it to be, and you don't need to bother with a forward hook at all.

On the other hand, suppose you are not fishing a school of bluefish, but rather prospecting for lone fish in an area that may hold different species? Or suppose that you are fishing large bunker in a North Shore harbor for outsized bluefish at the season's end? In such cases, you may well want a second hook. Bunker fishermen commonly arm each end of their bait with good sized barb, treble or single, according to choice. Anglers using chunk baits rarely need to be so fussy. But anyone who is trying to work a sizeable bait, say a whole squid or rigged bait, near the bottom where fluke or weaks or bass are the target of choice, but large blues are a possibility, is generally better off with that second hook. If your bait is going to be mutilated, you may as well catch the rascal who did it.



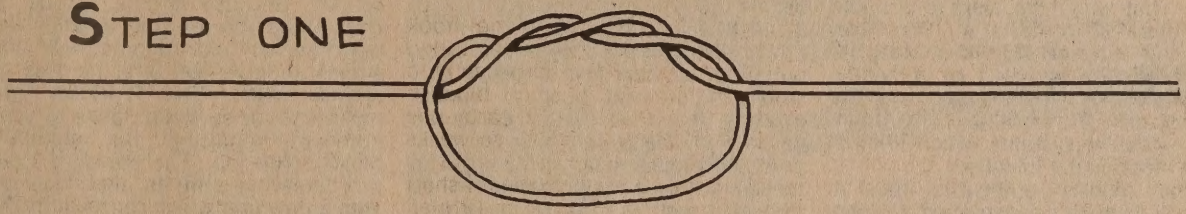
Long narrow baits like sand eels are prime candidates for a tandem hook fluke rig.

DOUBLE TREBLE HOOK LIVE POGIE RIG.



Tandem hook rig such as the one described above works well on fluke when used in conjunction with strip baits, sand eels, spearing or smelt.

STEP ONE



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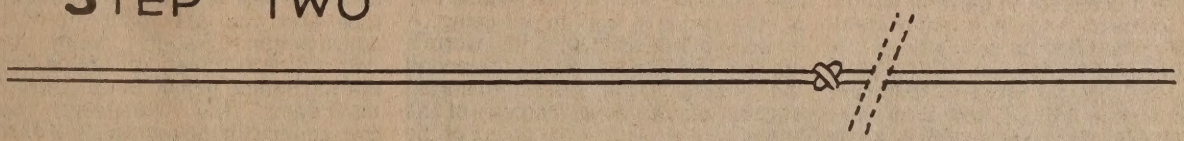

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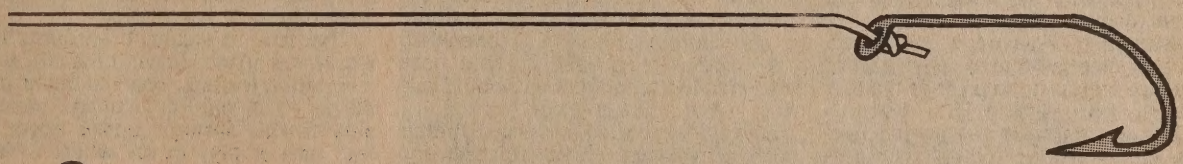

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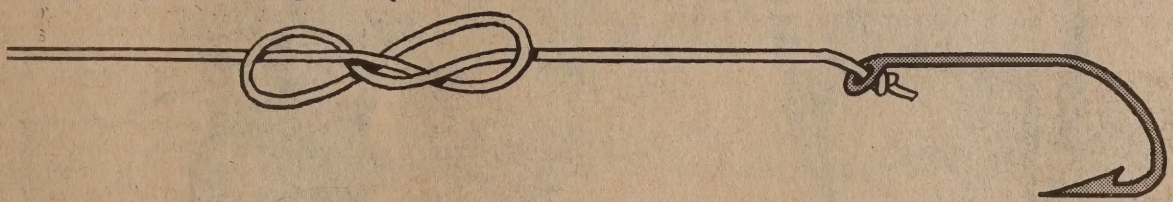

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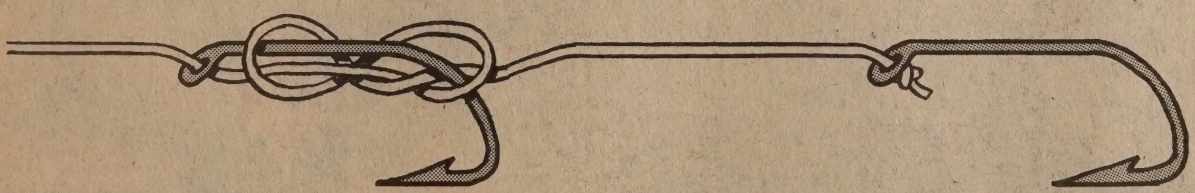
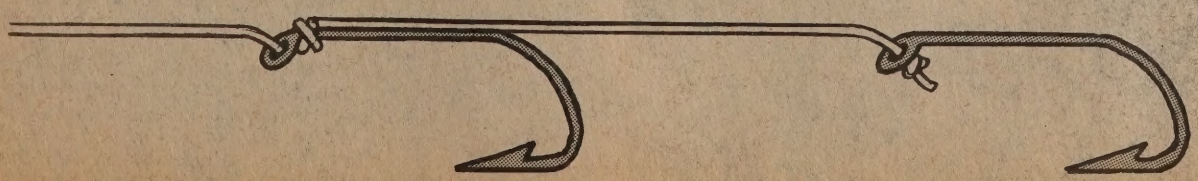


FINISHED PRODUCT



This two-hook rig is popular with North Shore anglers who live-line foot-long bunker for slammer blues.

TRU TRIM STEERING

by Charley Soares

The following is by no means an attempt to compare the Morse Tru-Trim steering unit to a hydralic system. That would be akin to a bluefish/blackfish comparison. The Tru-Trim unit is a steering system adapter which can be installed by a handy individual with hand tools and an electric drill and costs much less than the hydraulic systems which should be professionally installed.

Most modern outboards have a built-in trim tab constructed of zinc which serves a dual purpose. They provide a deterrent to galvanic action and corrosion and their adjustment screw or bolt can be set to have the tab offset engine torque.

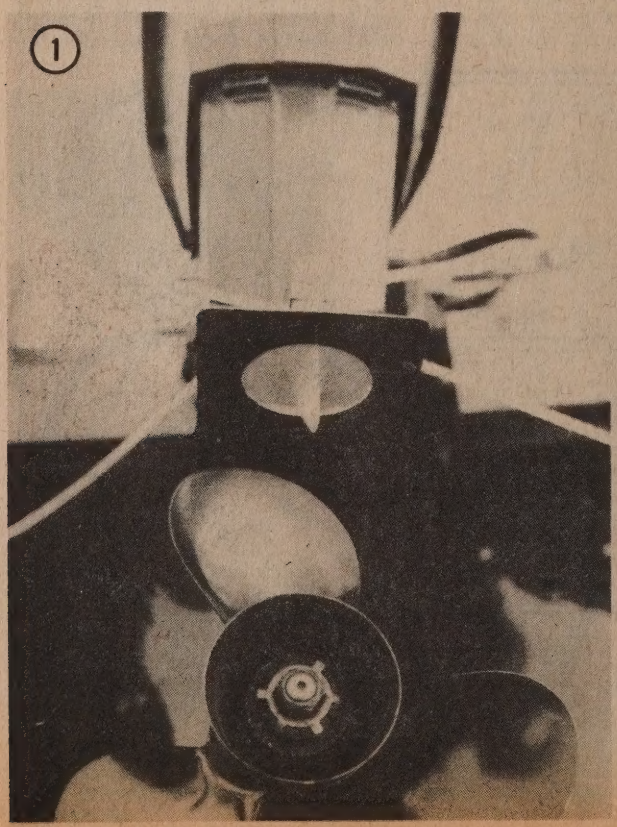
My 150 hp V-6 Mercury outboard turns a standard 3 blade aluminum prop at 5400 pushing Capable along at an honest cruising speed of 22 knots. Top end according to the Si-Tex Loran C is 31 knots when Peter burns off the carbon while making the last mile into the breakwater. Despite the amount of adjustment I have made to my trim tab, I had not been able to reduce its tendency to pull to starboard. Reluctant to invest up to $600 in a hydraulic system as I had just installed a new steering head and teleflex cable, I decided to live with this condition until I read an advertisement for Tru-Trim in a marine trade paper and decided to give this a try.

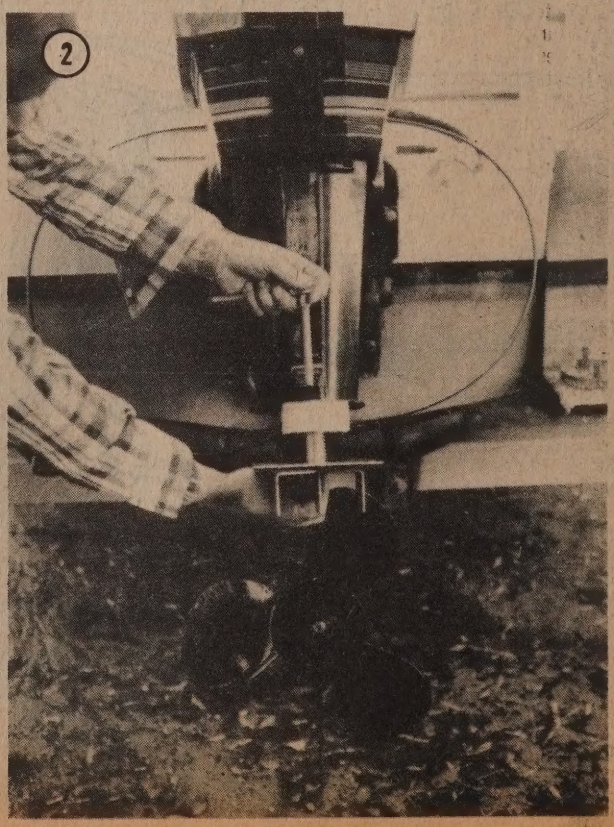
While we have come to enjoy the power and performance of the large outboards we have had to pay for this with difficult and hard to handle steering. If you relax your hand on the wheel you could find yourself in a potentially dangerous situation. The reason for this is the propeller creates torque as well as forward thrust and its the torque which makes handling a real problem. Tru-Trim is designed to put the torque to work to dramatically improve handling. Tru-Trim not only deflects the prop thrust to overcome the effects of torque, it actually utilizes this thrust to help turn the engine.

The Tru-Trim unit replaces the engine's production trim tab with a three-finned stainless steel rudder unit. Thrust passes through the fins creating a force which offsets the effect of torque on the lower unit. Unlike standard trim tabs, as you turn the wheel you change the angle of the fins. This means prop thrust is momentarily deflected which helps you turn with very little effort.

This system makes two-fisted steering a thing of the past. Even if you relax your grip your boat will steer its course. Because engine torque is neutralized you are free to enjoy the performance your engine was designed to give you with no loss of engine thrust. The Tru-Trim unit mounts to the cavitation plate of your outboard replacing the standard factory trim tab. The standard drag link (steering arm) is also replaced with a new unit which comes with the kit. Cables are attached to the fin and up to the new drag link and steering tube and you are ready to make adjustments. I suggest testing the unit on the trailer or cradle and making minor adjustments while in the water. My installation was completed with the assistance of Mike Ferreira who is a fine fishing partner and a very skilled craftsman. I will state that anyone with handyman skills can follow the directions and make this unit operational.

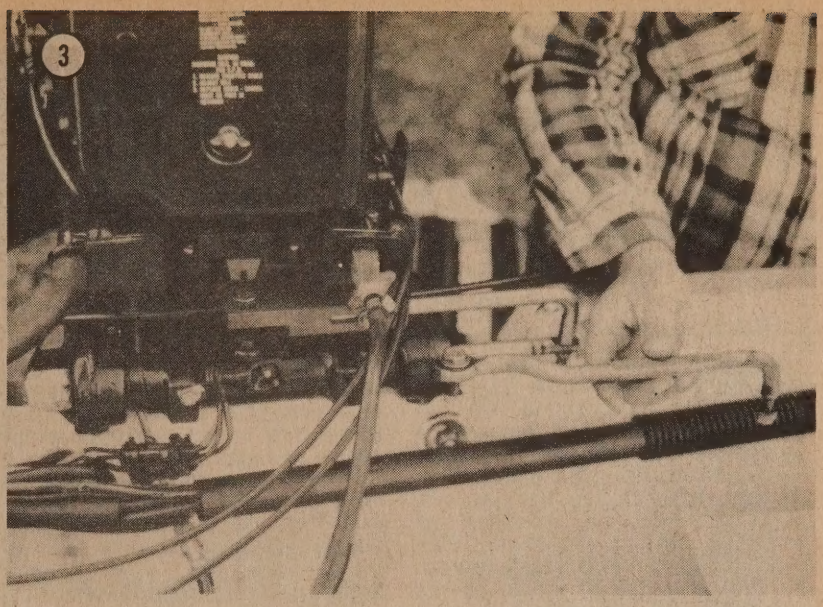
The only problem I encountered was at low speeds leaving the slip and navigating the busy channel out of the harbor. The natural slippage necessary to this system caused about a half turn of play in my wheel which

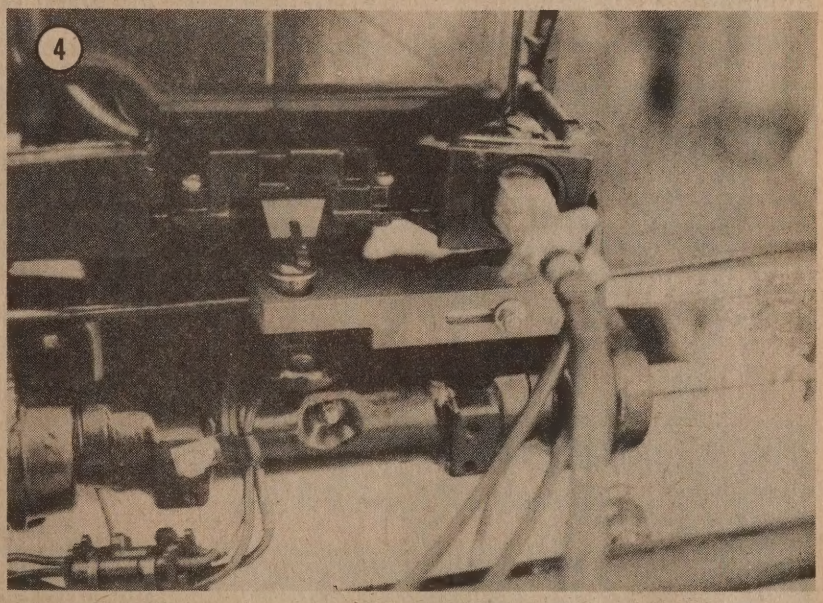




made low speed maneuvering a bit more work. Mike suggested drilling the steering tube and pinning the drag link for low speed positive operation and removing the pin once we reached about 1800 RPMs when the water moving by the tabs began to do their job. I wrote to Morse and later spoke with Dick Moser of their engineering staff. He concurred with Mike's suggestion and even supplied the S.S. pull pin with detented ball to insert in the 3/16 hole which I drilled for this purpose. It worked perfectly. My boat is backed into its slip at Concordia Marine in Dartmouth with the outboard raised to full trailer tilt to keep the lower unit out of the water. Not a week goes by that someone will leave a note or call the yard foreman to inquire as to what is hanging off the lower unit of my outboard. What they see is one of the better products to come along to correct a specific problem and inherent danger of steering big outboards with conventional means.

To install the Tru-Trim on dual cable installations of large single outboards you must first reduce the adjustment tension generally created by the two cables to allow the Tru-Trim to work effectively. Since Tru-Trim literally removes most of the torque which causes steering wheel loads, adverse pressures are reduced to almost nothing. You can find Tru-Trim steering at your marine dealer or by writing to: Morse Controls, Div. of Incom., 21 Clifton St., Hudson, OH 44236 or call (216) 653-9161 and ask for C.E. Matthews, marketing development manager.





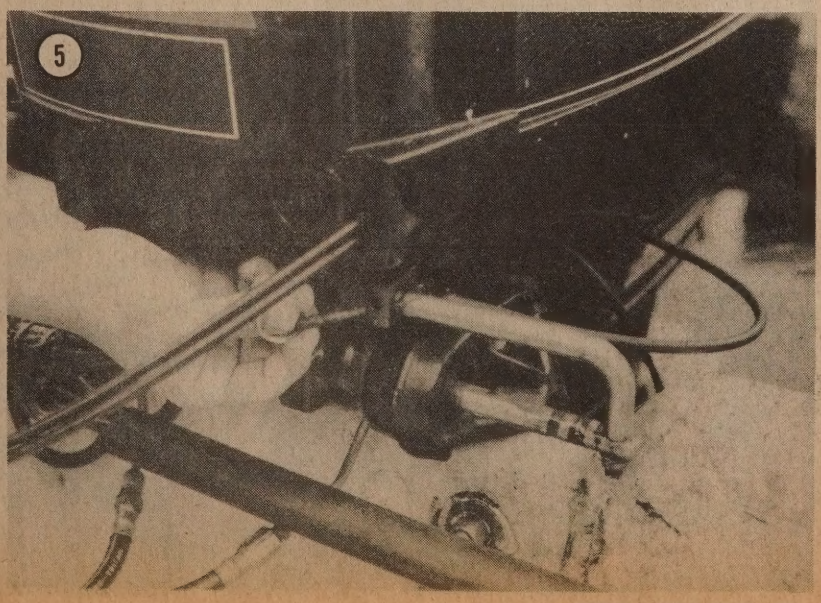


Photo One. This photo shows the standard trim tab supplied with most engines. It can be adjusted but cannot correct the real problem of torque which makes steering difficult and dangerous.

Photo Two. The factory trim tab is replaced with a three-finned stainless steel unit which bolts onto the cavitation plate. Cables to the steering tube react to the wheel and correct torque and allows the boat to run its course.

Photo Three. The standard drag link (steering arm) is replaced with a special unit supplied with the kit. This is inserted into the square steering tube and into the steering cable fitted through the motor's steering tube. Old drag link is in hand.

Photo Four. To correct some low speed play a 3/16 hole was drilled through the steering tube into the drag link and a S.S. pull pin was inserted to neutralize any play at low speeds. Pin is removed once engine reaches 1800 RPMs and fins take effect.

Photo Five. The finished installation. You will note the slot in the steering tube of the Tru-Trim unit which provides the necessary play for the system to adjust to counteract the torque of the wheel. The result is trouble free steering and a boat which runs true to course without undue pressure on the wheel.

THE DREAM FISH

by Sergio Radossi

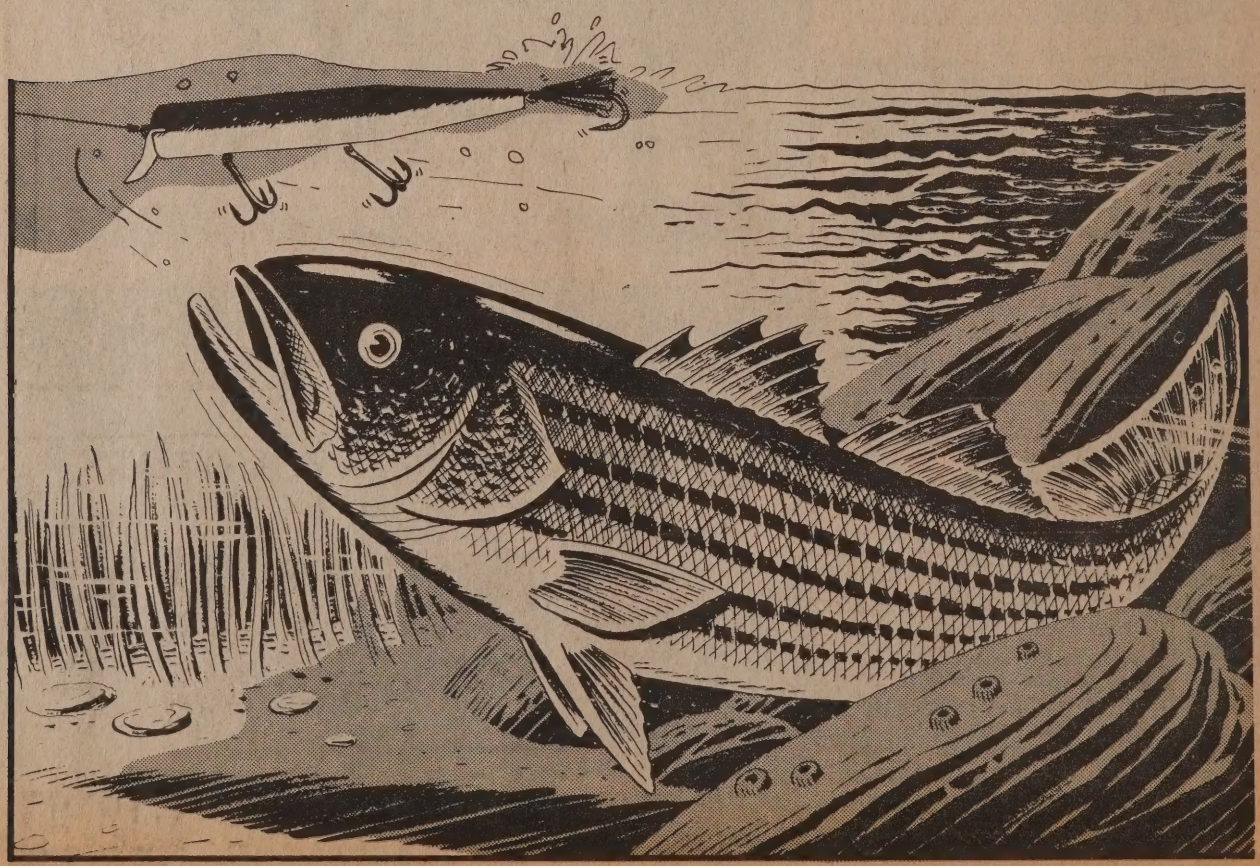
"I wasn't sure if I was awake or dreaming, but no matter, the fish was real enough for me!"

I had been live-lining bunker off the sand bar just south of the tip of the Hook during the incoming tide. For the last few nights this had been a productive area with the linesiders waiting on the inside of the dropoff for an easy meal. During the past few years, however, the area had not produced with any consistency. Past experience told me to leave and head for the Long Branch jetties on the outgoing. The fish seemed to have moved anyway.

Starting at the north jetty about an hour after the high slack, I was working my way down towards the pier. There was no action yet, but that's to be expected when fishing the rocks. You have to cover each one until you find the bait and with the bait the fish. And then there's always the chance of picking up a loner. There was certainly enough bunker around, the recent regulations on purse seining had been keeping the netters off the beach and the bunker had started to come back in good numbers. Even though the bass were in a down cycle, I knew that my 3 oz. Atom plug would get me a striper before dawn.

I could see a few guys on the pier now; they were probably dunking bunker chunks for bluefish. Not many people fished the rocks for bass any more; there just wasn't enough around for most people—which was just fine with me. The blues had moved in on the Shrewsbury Rocks over the past week. The boat fishermen had been doing a number on them in the daytime and they had been coming in on the beach at night with their regular unregularity. However, from the looks of things it was quiet on the bluefish front, too. Shouldn't be for long, though. The tide, the moon, the water temperature—were all textbook perfect. Maybe that's the problem: the fish never read the book!

A HIT! Wouldn't you know it, always when you're not paying attention. It's like they know! Okay now, let him run. Try to turn him; can't; this has to be a bass—he stopped. I can feel him trying to shake the plug free, look at the bend in the rod. Must be a cow! A good size one. There she goes again—**Oh, no,** not the pier! Have to keep her away from those pilings. Damn, she's under the pier; it's okay, she's not hung up yet and she's tiring. I'm getting line back now, good—there's the shock cord. Lucky I used 50 lb. test otherwise I would have lost her by now. A little more, just past that last piling. Almost got her. If those bunker dunkers only knew. Look at the size of it. It's lip-hooked; where's the gaff. Figures, I didn't bring it. It's okay; it stopped struggling, it's beat, better land it before it gets its second wind. Look at the size of it—has to be 70, no 80 pounds. I haven't heard of a bass this size caught in two, maybe three years. It must be the last big cow on



the East Coast. Probably good for a couple of million eggs.

You're right. I am the last. I turned around to see who was behind me, but there was no one there. Boy, the tricks your imagination will play on you. I turned back to the bass. It was still lying there quiet in a pool between the pier pilings and the rocks. But no, it was ludicrous. Fish don't talk; it was my imagination. The pier lights outlined it beautifully; it had to be at least 80 pounds, maybe even 90. It was a huge bass.

Try 100 lbs. and I am the last. Again, I turned around expecting to see one of the bunker dunkers from the pier playing games. Again, there was no one there, then I realized that the sound had not come from behind me, but from in front of me. I looked down at the striper, still lip-hooked, still lying quiet in that pool between the pilings and the rocks. But no, fish don't talk. It was my imagination. I have to stop these all night fishing trips.

Still I thought, what if it could talk? What would a striped bass this big have to say? The fish had to be 40 or 45 years old. Had it witnessed our troops sailing off to Europe as a short and then return as a keeper. Most certainly it could tell us of the decline of our waterways and of the effects of pollution on the spawning grounds. Would it put to rest the debate about the difference between the Hudson River and Chesapeake Bay fish? Would we finally have an answer to the reason for the decline of the striped bass stocks? Would the answer be pollution? Overfishing? Or is it just a natural cycle? Would we listen? Probably not; we would just find another self-serving theory.

As I worked my way down the rocks, I thought, was it right to keep this fish or should I release it? Even if this is just a natural down cycle, this might be the fish that's responsible for another class year. Anyway, stripers this big are not as good as the smaller fish. No, the thing to do was to tag and release it. I searched my surf bag and pockets with my free hand, but I knew that they were in a safe place. In the closet with my gaff! Oh well, no one would believe it anyway.

I lowered the rod tip to give the fish some slack and with one quick shake of its head and tail it was unhooked and gone. It was the right thing to do. I felt good and it would make for one heck of a fish story.

Thanks. This time I was sure. The sound had come from the water. Just under the end of the pier. I still turned around to double check. After all, fish don't talk. The guys on the pier were still soaking their bunker chunks, but there was no one near me.

The next sound was the phone ringing. I was in bed! My fishing partner was calling to tell me that they caught stripers at the Hook last night. It was on the incoming, on that sand bar just south of the tip. Now what I did do with those tags?

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FEBRUARY FISH NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE SOUTH JERSEY MARINA ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING SUMMER TOURNAMENTS:
JUNE ..14-16 ...5TH ANNUAL SHARK.
JULY ..10-14 ...8TH ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN.
AUG ... 8-11 ...MARLIN ROUND UP.
AUG ... 20-25 .. MARLIN MARDI GRAS.
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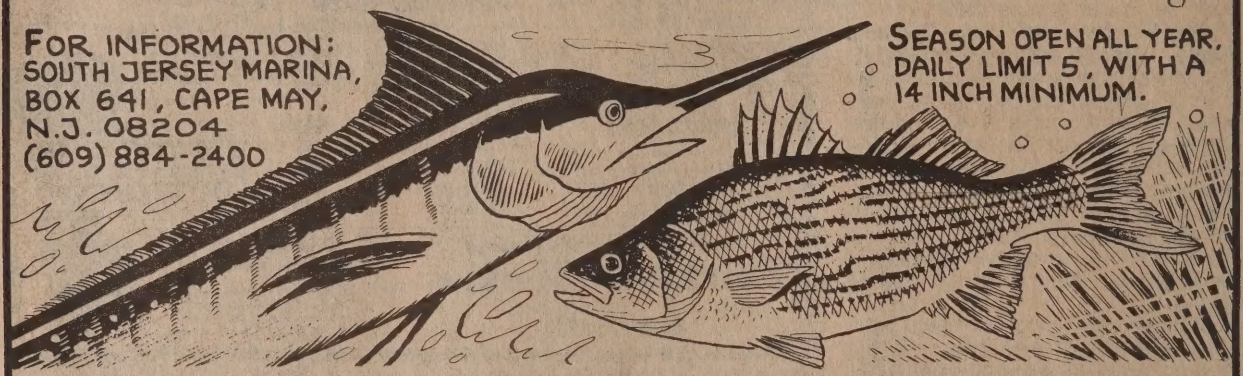
HYBRID BASS (*STRIPER & WHITE BASS CROSS*) STOCKED IN FORT POND, MONTAUK, L.I. ARE REPORTED ALIVE AND WELL BY THE N.Y. STATE D.E.C. ... 1982 FISH ARE 16 INCHES AND 2 LBS... 1983 HYBRIDS ARE UP TO 11 INCHES.

SEASON OPEN ALL YEAR, DAILY LIMIT 5, WITH A 14 INCH MINIMUM.



TROUT STOCKING IN CONNECTICUT TOOK PLACE LAST FALL WHEN THE D.E.C. LIBERATED 5,000 BROWN TROUT AND 34,000 RAINBOWS IN 23 LAKES CAPABLE OF HOLDING TROUT ALL YEAR - EXCEPT PATACONK LAKE, DRAINED FOR DAM REPAIRS.

THE NEW JERSEY FISH, GAME & WILDLIFE DIVISION STOCKED LARGEMOUTH BASS, CHANNEL CATFISH AND SUNFISH IN ALL APPROPRIATE STATE WATERS. MOST BASS WERE TWO-YEAR OLDS WHILE THE CATS WERE 7-11 INCHES.

LONG ISLAND FISH *NOT FIT TO EAT* ARE FRESHWATER SPECIES FOUND IN BELMONT LAKE, CANAAN LAKE, SPRING LAKE, ST. JAMES POND AND MASSAPEQUA RES. THE N.Y. STATE HEALTH DEP'T. FOUND HIGH LEVELS OF PCB'S, MIREX AND CHLORDANE IN THESE WATERS.

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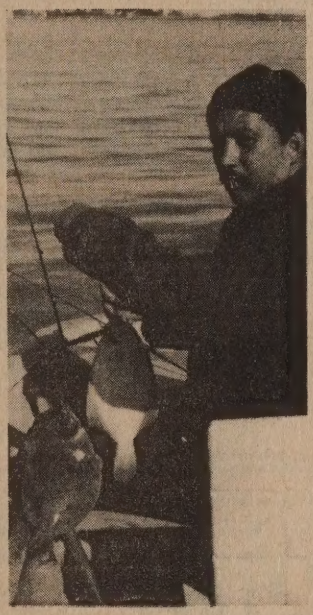

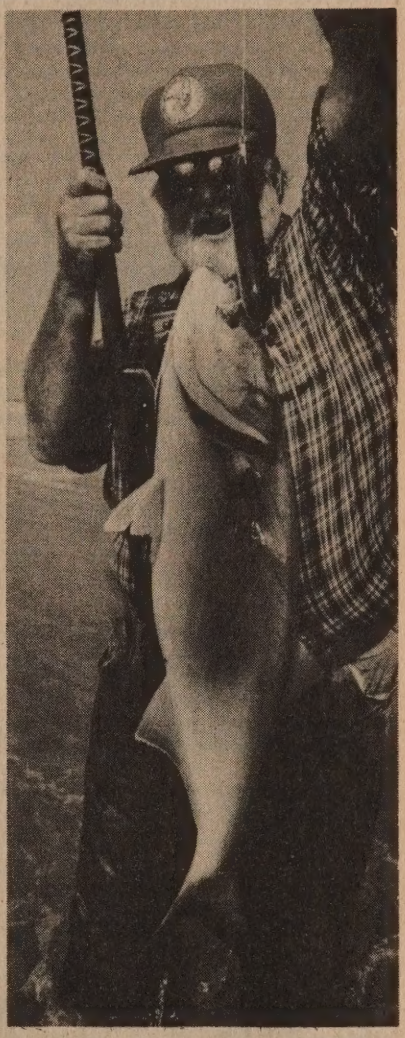

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THE Fisherman
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South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

A new dimension was added to the fishing scene this week with Friday's opening of Connetquot State Park to eager trout fans. While the mixture of cold and wet weather may have had a numbing effect on the level of enthusiasm, no one had any regrets about being on the river. In fact, there was nothing but praise for the early opening.

Cod fans had reason to smile this week too. The best action of the year occurred this week though only a limited number of anglers cashed in on it.

Not all of the trout action has been confined to Connetquot, according to Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in Patchogue. Paul reported looking over several browns to 2½ lbs. taken by Bernie Lorenz this week from Tuthil's Creek. Bernie who has been using small leadheaded jigs to take the fish, told Paul that he also released an estimated 5 lb. rainbow over the weekend. Perch have been quiet locally but there was talk of some decent action in the lower reaches of the Connetquot. No mid-winter flounder run in Moriches this year as everything has been iced up solid.

Over at **J&R Sports Center** in Oakdale, Al Colban filed a report of some pretty good trout fishing in Connetquot over the weekend. Opening day (Friday) left much to be desired with only a couple of anglers, those working the Mill Race, enjoying any decent fishing. Saturday and Sunday however saw any number of 2 and 3 lb. trout weighed in at the shop according to Al and the fishing was not limited to the Mill Race either. Saturday saw some decent perch scores made in the open reaches of the Connetquot. One car-top boatman did especially well using some fresh caught shrimp.

Codfishing south of Fire Island has finally responded to the cold weather, according to Capt. George Tweedy of the Captree open boat **Capt. Scotty 3**. George spoke of a spectacular week with excellent fishing all week with the exception of Monday. Catches ranged between two and three hundred cod a day with high hooks of up to 30 fish per man. Also, plummeting water temperatures have finally moved some cod to open bottom and dogfish have been almost non-existent on the grounds. Captain Scotty regular Frank Bodensky corralled 30, 18 and 18 cod on three separate jaunts this week. On Sunday Joe Payne led the way with 26 cod. Fish ranged anywhere from 6 to 40 lbs. with 12 to 15 pounders the average on most days. Fisherman East End reporter Lorry Mangan called to tell me she sailed on Wednesday's trip aboard the **Scotty**. She told of super fishing done over a pair of wrecks in approximately 100 feet of water. Tom Tonnesen and Walter Pollack teamed to take 29 cod for the day, another trio accounted for 21 cod, Rob Braun had 13, Rick Drogue, 16, and John Kupres had 10 cod. The aforementioned Frank Bodensky was high hook with 30 cod. Lorry noted that the fish were feeding heavily on herring and that no dogfish were taken during the day. Norbert Freetag had the pool winner, a fish in the 30 to 35 lb. range, while Ed Sass decked an 8 lb. blackfish.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Captain Joseph II** reminded that he is now sailing weekends only for cod. He added that the past week saw some very fine cod action occur south of Fire Island Inlet.

Captain Ken Birkmire of the Captree charter Boat **Taryn-Ann**, dropped us a line and ask that we remind customers that he has the boat looking better than ever and is now booking for the '85 season. Ken also noted their involvement in last year's Send-A-Kid-Fishing program and is eagerly looking forward to having the kids aboard again this year.

The word from Tom Healy of **Augie's Tackle Shop** in Babylon wasn't very encouraging concerning the local fishing scene. Overcome with cabin fever, Tom gave Carman's River a try on Friday but found the

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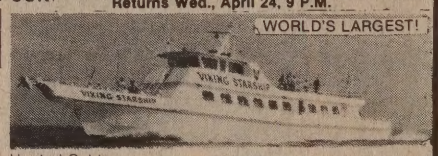

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white perch in a very uncooperative mood. Local creeks were still too clogged with ice to even make an attempt at perch. Tom did have one trout fan stop by after a session in the Connetquot on Sunday. He finished with his limit and told of taking and releasing approximately 20 trout on one of the upstream beats. Also a reminder from Augie's that the Sportfishing Forum being held at SUNY Farmingdale is set for Friday and Saturday. While Friday's session is geared for people in the trade, there will be a limited number of tickets available at the door on Saturday. The program gets under way at 9AM with an impressive agenda of speakers. Among them are Senator Owen Johnson, Commission of DEC Henry Williams, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service) - William Gordon. There will also be workshops on inshore and offshore fishing.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Very solid catches of whiting have been made this week by the party boats sailing out of Sheepshead Bay, fish up to 1½ lbs. The codfishing out of Freeport has been from fair to very good this week with the wrecks still holding all the cod.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

We learn from Captain Butch who is presently running the **Capt. Al** told of a very good catch Thursday with 15 fares taking 120 cod on one two-hour drop, all fishing being 18 to 20 lbers. Kenny, a regular boated 12 himself. Saturday and Sunday were fair as far as catches went with some good fishermen having 5 and 6 fish, despite the big heave in the morning. Pool fish are going from 20 to 30 lbs. and action is still on wrecks. Doggies are around on open bottom and some are even sneaking into the wrecks. Butch said the setliners that he knows did poorly this week. There are lots of herring around and the cod have been feeding on the herring. Many cod have also been laying in mid-water depths.

From Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** we learn first of all that the cod schedule has been changed and the boat is now sailing at 5AM everyday. The biggest cod caught on the Starstream II so far this year was taken Tuesday. It was a 64

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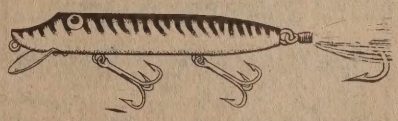

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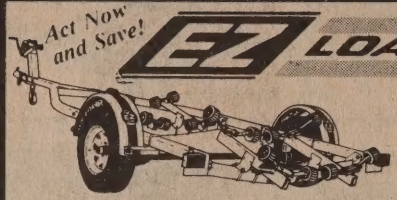

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Paul Ferrari beached this 24 lb. striper on a fluke rig from behind The Store at Oak Beach.

pounder caught by Staten Island angler Frank Noto. On Saturday a small crowd had 55 cod and on Sunday 43 cod bit the bullet. These were mainly 8 to 15 pounders. Pools have been in the 20 to 30 lb. range. The skipper said he is still fishing over wrecks, rocks and mussel beds.

A call from Captain Jimmy Lanzarotta of the **Super Spray II** told of some good codfishing one day during the week and also Saturday and Sunday. A small crowd on Sunday had over 100 cod with some sharp anglers having 8 to 11 fish. Pools are running in the 30 lb. area with the general run of fishing averaging 10 to 15 lbs. This is all on wrecks. Jimmy said the dogs have essentially disappeared and the cod are full of herring.

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** in Bellmore says that any of you out there with cabin fever are more than welcome to come into the store on weekends for free rod building or fly tying instructions if you are so inclined.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Over at **Mike's Tackle** in Sheepshead Bay, Wee Willie told of the excellent catches of whiting being caught by several of the party boats such as the **Pilot II** and the **Helen H** and the **Atomic**. The boats are running to Ambrose Lightship and the BA buoy with fish going up to 1½ lbs. Willie said fares are getting anywhere from 1 to 2 full buckets of whiting. If you have never eaten whiting, you have a treat in store.

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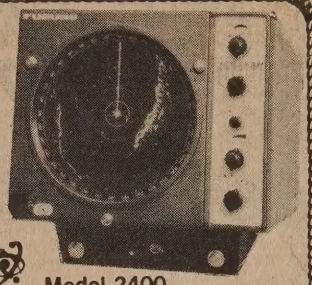

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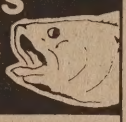

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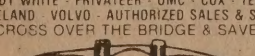

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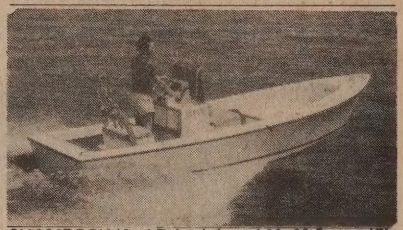

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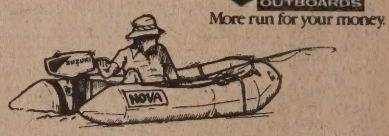

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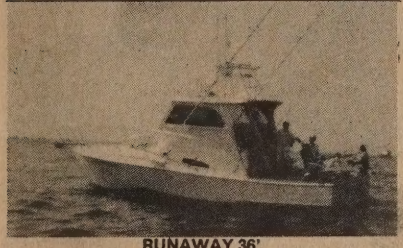

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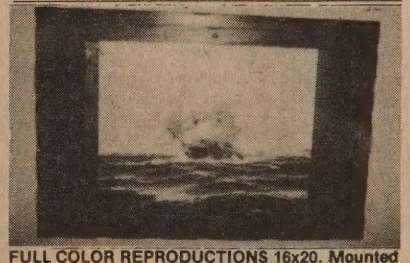

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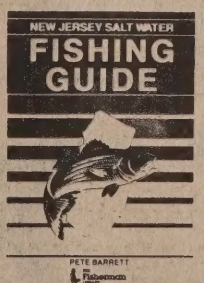

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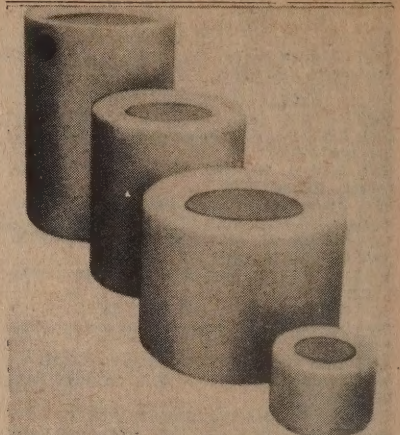

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DISTRESS SALE—3 Prime Lots in Silver Spring Shore, FL. $20,000 for all 3. 516-433-4427.

FISHING STATION—Bait & Tackle. Estab. over 30 years & growing. Retirement situation; good for partners. G&G BROKERAGE, 718-646-1232.

HOWARD BEACH WATERFRONT. Completely renovated: 3BR, 1½Bth, living room/fireplace, formal dining rm. Stained glass windows, Jacuzzi tub. Low taxes. $175,000. 212-738-2760.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	8:55	9:25	9:45	10:10	9:35	10:05	10:25	10:55	12:00	12:15	12:00	12:20	8:55	9:20	2/7
FRI.	9:45	10:20	10:30	11:00	10:25	11:00	11:10	11:45	12:45	1:05	12:45	1:05	9:45	10:10	2/8
SAT.	10:35	11:10	11:20	11:45	11:15	11:50	—	12:05	1:30	1:55	1:35	2:00	10:35	11:00	2/9
SUN.	11:25	—	—	12:10	—	12:10	12:35	1:05	2:20	2:50	2:25	2:55	11:25	11:55	2/10
MON.	12:05	12:25	12:45	1:05	12:40	1:05	1:35	2:05	3:15	3:50	3:20	3:50	—	12:25	2/11
TUES.	1:00	1:20	1:45	2:05	1:40	2:05	2:35	3:10	4:20	5:10	4:20	5:00	12:55	1:25	2/12
WED.	2:00	2:30	2:50	3:15	2:40	3:10	3:40	4:25	5:45	6:45	5:25	6:05	2:00	2:30	2/13
THURS.	3:10	3:40	4:00	4:30	3:45	4:20	4:45	5:30	7:10	8:00	6:30	7:15	3:05	3:35	2/14

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 2/7	7:06	5:23
FRI. 2/8	7:05	5:24
SAT. 2/9	7:04	5:25
SUN. 2/10	7:03	5:26
MON. 2/11	7:01	5:28
TUE. 2/12	7:00	5:29
WED. 2/13	6:59	5:30

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 2/7	7:56PM	8:31AM
FRI. 2/8	9:11PM	8:59AM
SAT. 2/9	10:26PM	9:25AM
SUN. 2/10	11:40PM	9:52AM
MON. 2/11	—	10:20AM
TUE. 2/12	12:54AM	10:53AM
WED. 2/13	2:07AM	11:32AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
1/21	1/29	2/5	2/12

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	6:20	12:10	6:55	12:40
Fri.	7:20	1:10	7:50	1:35
Sat.	8:15	2:05	8:45	2:30
Sun.	9:10	3:00	9:40	3:25
Mon.	10:05	3:55	10:35	4:20
Tues.	11:00	4:50	11:30	5:15
Wed.	11:50	5:40	—	6:10
Thurs.	12:25	6:30	12:40	7:00

Quantum® Lab Report

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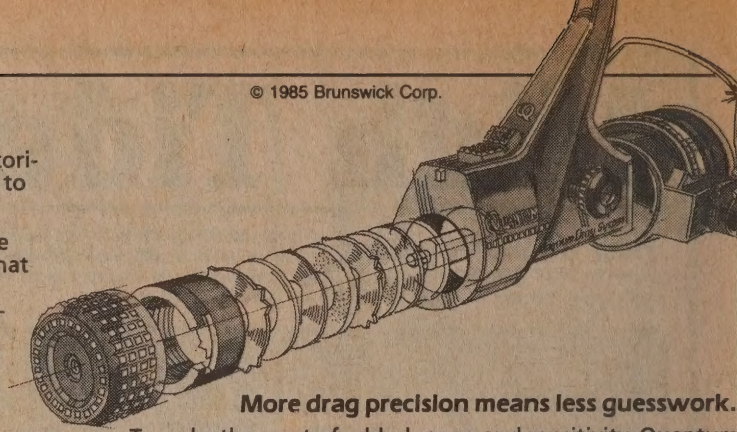
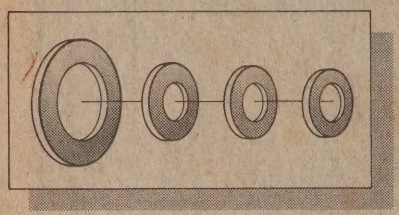


The performance choice in spinning reel drags has historically been limited to two. Front drags that are difficult to adjust. Rear drags that are unpredictable.

Now there's Quantum Magnum Drag. With 600% more working drag surface, it's the first spinning reel drag that can really talk performance. The kind of performance that makes a big fish respect light line. The kind of performance that won't fade or freeze under pressure. Performance beyond what everyone has always accepted as the limit. Until now.



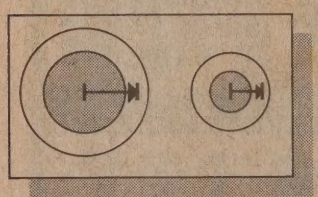
Actual size comparison of Magnum Drag discs vs. conventional rear drag discs.

The more you have to work with the more you have a right to expect.

The size difference between Quantum and conventional drag discs tells you what you can expect from Magnum Drag. More. More surface area means more range, control, precision, sensitivity.

More drag surface means more leverage.

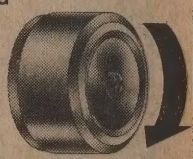
Pressure and heat can cripple a drag. Especially since heat build-up can approach 285°. By using the increased surface area to give Magnum Drag a larger center hole and double the radius of conventional rear drags, heat and pressure are spread out over a larger area. Away from the center shaft. So Magnum Drag actually gives your line leverage against a fighting fish.



Quantum's disc radius is nearly double that of conventional rear drag discs.

More drag precision means less guesswork.

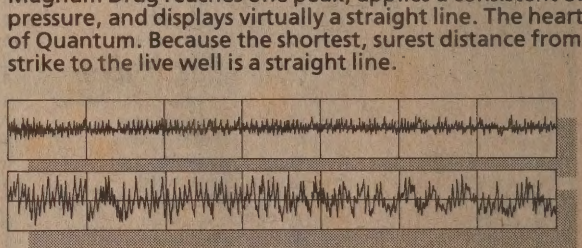
To make the most of added range and sensitivity, Quantum engineering added precision. Every click on the Magnum Drag equals precisely one-quarter pound of pressure. No more. No less. You'll never "accidentally" dial yourself out of the fight by guesswork.



990° degrees of rotation, calibrated in 1/4-pound increments, deliver precise control of Quantum's drag range.

The heart of performance.

If the drag is the heart of the reel, Quantum engineering produced a reel that's all heart. Notice how the bottom chart is a highly erratic line. Every peak and valley on that line is a bump or a slip in drag tension. A missed fish. Magnum Drag reaches one peak, applies a consistent even pressure, and displays virtually a straight line. The heartbea of Quantum. Because the shortest, surest distance from the strike to the live well is a straight line.



Actual demonstration of Quantum Magnum Drag (above) vs. conventional rear dra (below). These graphs plot drag smoothness and consistency much the same way a EKG plots heartbeats.

For the name of the Quantum dealer nearest you call toll-free 1-800-USA-REEL.

Magnum Drag.™ Drag Engineering that pushes performance past the known limitations.

QUANTUM®

Box 270, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101

PRECISION ENGINEERED IN AMERICA BY ZEB